

# Celestial Calculations

In this post visit activity, students will create constellations with flashlights! Students can create their own constellation, re-create their name as a constellation, or draw a constellation they have studied in class. Students may create a story about a constellation they designed or research a constellation or two that already exists!

## Materials:

- Flashlight
- Paper (dark construction paper works best)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Push pin or the sharpened end of a pencil
- Pencils
- White colored pencils
- Constellations designs

## Steps:

1. Place the flashlight upside down on the paper and trace the circle around the flashlight. If your flashlight is not completely circular, it may take a little trial and error to get the right-sized circle.
2. Cut out the circle. Make sure it fits tightly around the lighted end of the flashlight with room with little room for light to shine through.
3. Using the first circle as a template, cut out several more circles.
4. On each circle draw a different constellation with a white colored pencil. Don't forget to label each constellation on the circle!
5. Using push pins or the sharpened end of a pencil, poke out all the stars in each constellation.
6. Tape your constellation circle to your flashlight. Because of the ridges on some flashlights, it may be easier to roll a piece of tape and stick it on the back of the circle. But tape can also be attached to the sides of the flashlight. Just make sure the tape isn't blocking any stars!
7. Turn off the lights and then turn on the flashlight and see your constellations light up like in the real night sky!



[flashlight constellations - Bing images](#)