Make your own: Constellation Scope

Did you know people all around the world in every era have looked up at the sky and grouped the stars into constellations? Early on, we noticed that the location of stars in the sky appears to change depending on the season and also where you are on Earth’s surface. As a result, for thousands of years we have been able to use the stars to mark the passage of time, navigate our world, and also pass on our stories and culture.

Supplies:

- 1 piece of cardstock
- 1 pin
- 1 constellation circles
- Flashlight
- Scissors
- Tape (or glue)

Instructions:

1. Cut out your constellation circle, be sure to leave a little bit of extra space to tape it to your scope tube.
2. Use a pin to gently punch small holes on the black dots (stars) of your constellation circle.
3. Roll your cardstock into a tube, be sure that the diameter is a little smaller than your constellation circle.
4. Glue or tape your tube closed, be sure that the edge is sealed completely.
5. Glue or tape your constellation circle onto the end of your tube. There should be a little overlap so that you can seal it completely so no light can leak through the edges.
6. Turn off the lights in the room and point your flashlight through the open end of the tube towards your constellation,
7. Be sure to hold your constellation scope close to a flat dark surface, like a table or wall, and you should see your constellation appear!

Check out our video: MOSI Constellations for more information and step-by-step instructions for this activity!

Ursa Major: The Great Bear
Visible: All year in the Northern Hemisphere, easiest to see from April-June

Orion: The Hunter
Visible: Northern and Southern hemisphere, especially clear from Nov. to Feb.

Taurus: The Bull
Visible: Northern and Southern hemisphere, peak visibility in Jan