

CONSTELLATION IN A CANISTER

www.nasa.gov/audience/forchildren/activities/A_Constellation_in_Canister.html

People have looked at the stars for many, many years, They could imagine pictures of stars. Those pictures are called constellations. After you do this activity, see if you can find the constellations in the night sky.

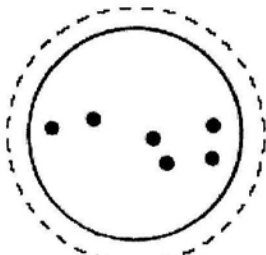
Material Needed:

1. 16 black 35mm film canisters
2. Scissors
3. Tape
4. Pushpin
5. Patterns + View patterns

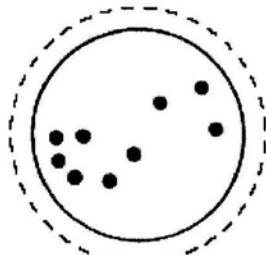
Procedure:

1. Put a piece of tape on the side of each canister. Write the name of a constellation on it.
2. Cut out a constellation pattern on the dotted lines.
3. Put the pattern on the canister with the correct name on it.
4. Put a pattern over the bottom of the film canister. Line the dark circle up with the inside rim of the canister. Tape the circle into place.
5. Punch a small hole through the paper and the canister for each star in the pattern.
6. Hold the film canister up to the light. Look through it to make sure that you have punched the holes all the way through. You should see light through each hole.
7. Take the paper pattern off the canister.
8. Repeat steps 2-8 for the rest of the constellation pattern.
9. Choose one of the canisters and read the name. Look through it to try to remember the pattern. Slowly turn the canister and observe.
10. Try to learn the constellations without looking at the names.
11. Look outside to find the patterns in the sky at night.

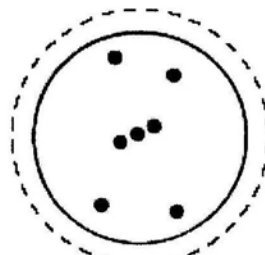
See next page for patterns.



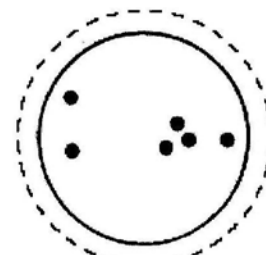
URSA MAJOR,
the Great Bear



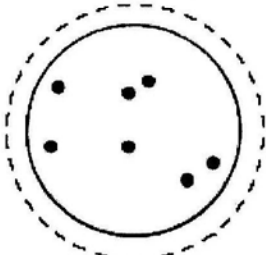
SCORPIUS,
the Scorpion



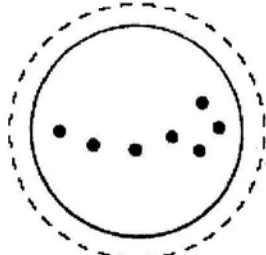
ORION,
the Hunter



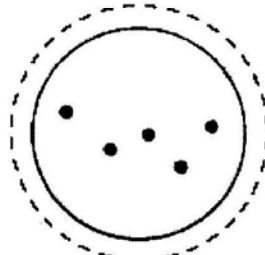
TAURUS,
the Bull



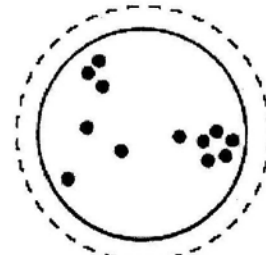
PEGASUS,
the Flying Horse



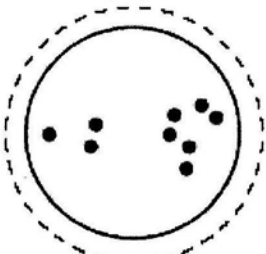
URSA MINOR,
the Little Bear



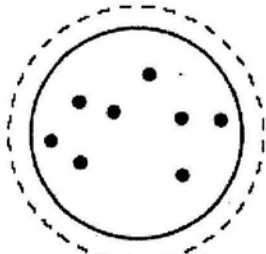
CASSIOPEIA,
the Queen



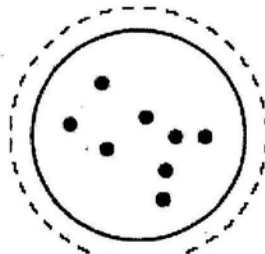
PISCES,
the Fishes



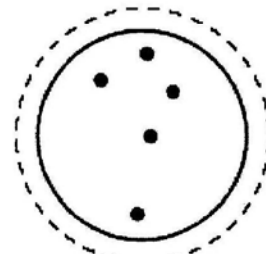
LEO,
the Lion



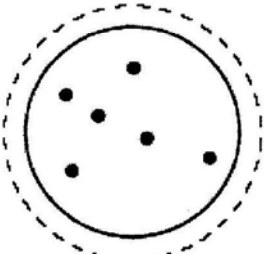
SAGITTARIUS,
the Archer



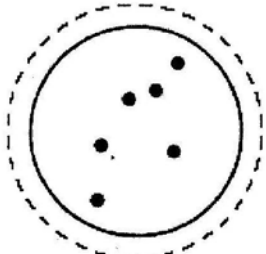
GEMINI,
the Twins



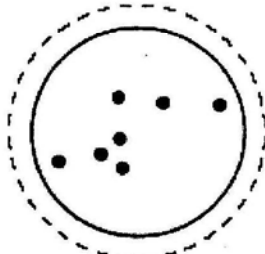
BOOTES,
the Herdsman



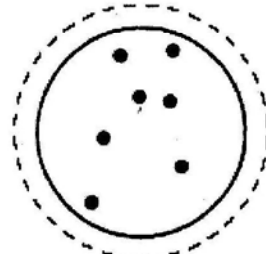
CYGNUS,
the Swan



PERSEUS



CANIS MAJOR,
the Big Dog



HERCULES