Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw Your Own Star Picture

Circle group

Long ago, people looked at the night sky. They saw groups of stars. They drew lines between the stars to make pictures. These star pictures are called constellations. They helped people remember where stars were.

You can make a constellation. Here is how.

First, get dark paper and a white crayon. Next, make ten dots on the paper. Put them anywhere. Then join some dots with lines. Look at your shape. Is it a cat, a boat, or a tree?

Last, give it a name. Write the name at the bottom.

Real stars in a constellation are not close to each other. They only look close from Earth.

Questions

1. What are star pictures called?

_____

_____

2. Why did people draw constellations long ago?

_____

_____

3. What do you need to make a constellation?

_____

_____

4. What do you do after you make the dots?

_____

_____

5. Why is dark paper a good choice?

_____

_____

Words to know

constellation: a group of stars that make a picture
crayon: a stick of colored wax for drawing
shape: the outline of something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw Your Own Star Picture

Triangle group

Long ago, people looked up at the night sky and saw groups of stars. They drew lines between the stars to make pictures. These star pictures are called constellations. They helped people remember where stars were.

You can make your own constellation. Here is how.

First, get a sheet of dark paper and a white crayon. Next, make ten dots all over the paper. Put them anywhere you like. Then connect some of the dots with lines. Look at the shape you made. Does it look like a cat, a boat, or a tall tree?

Last, give your constellation a name. Write the name at the bottom.

The stars in a real constellation are not really close to each other. They only look that way from Earth.

Questions

1. What are star pictures called?

_____

_____

2. Why did people draw constellations long ago?

_____

_____

3. What do you need to make your own constellation?

_____

_____

4. What do you do after you make the dots?

_____

_____

5. Why does the paper need to be dark?

_____

_____

Words to know

constellation: a group of stars that make a picture
connect: to join things together
crayon: a stick of colored wax for drawing
shape: the outline of something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw Your Own Star Picture

Square group

Long ago, people gazed up at the night sky and noticed groups of stars. They imagined lines between the stars and turned each group into a picture. These star pictures are called constellations, and they helped people remember where the stars were.

You can create your own constellation by following these steps.

First, gather a sheet of dark paper and a white crayon. Next, make ten dots scattered all over the paper, putting them wherever you like. Then connect some of the dots with lines. Study the shape you have made. Does it remind you of a cat, a boat, or a tall tree?

Finally, give your constellation a name, and write it at the bottom of the page.

The stars in a real constellation are not actually close to one another. They only appear that way when we view them from Earth.

Questions

1. What are the star pictures that people imagined called?

_____

_____

2. Why did people make constellations long ago?

_____

_____

3. What should you gather to make your own constellation?

_____

_____

4. What do you do once the dots are scattered over the paper?

_____

_____

5. Why is it smart to use dark paper and a white crayon?

_____

_____

Words to know

constellation: a group of stars that make a picture
connect: to join things together
crayon: a stick of colored wax for drawing
shape: the outline of something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Draw Your Own Star Picture

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Draw Your Own Star Picture

Easier · 108 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Constellations.
2. They helped people remember where stars were.
3. Dark paper and a white crayon.
4. You join some of them with lines.
5. White crayon shows up well on dark paper, like stars at night.

Triangle: Draw Your Own Star Picture

This passage · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Constellations.
2. They helped people remember where stars were.
3. A sheet of dark paper and a white crayon.
4. You connect some of them with lines.
5. A white crayon shows up well on dark paper, like stars in the night sky.

Square: Draw Your Own Star Picture

Harder · 143 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. Constellations.
2. They helped people remember where the stars were.
3. A sheet of dark paper and a white crayon.
4. You connect some of the dots with lines.
5. White marks show up well against the dark, just like stars in the night sky.