

## Lesson 4: Journal Constellations

Get ready to go outside! Now that we're back from France, it's time to apply what we learned from our visit with Charles Messier to our own observations of the sky. It's time to hunt for constellations!

**RESOURCES INCLUDED WITH THIS LESSON:** 

- Star Journal Pages
- Reflection Questions



## Your Star Journal

It's time to go outside and take some observations of your own! Before you go out tonight, you'll need to make sure you have all the supplies you need. Double check to make sure you have:

- A flash light
- A pencil
- A sky observation notebook (printed out here, or a journal of your own)
- A pair of binoculars (if you have one!)
- Clothes that are good for going outside a jacket, good shoes, etc.

Also make sure the sun is down before you go outside.

You can use the following pages to take down your observations as you listen to the lesson, or you can use your own journal. Remember that when you're observing the sky, you can trust your instincts! Taking careful observations just means that you're paying attention to what you're noticing, and writing it down.

Before we make our next entry, check your notes from last time.

What do you remember seeing the last time you looked up at the sky?



Entry 2:

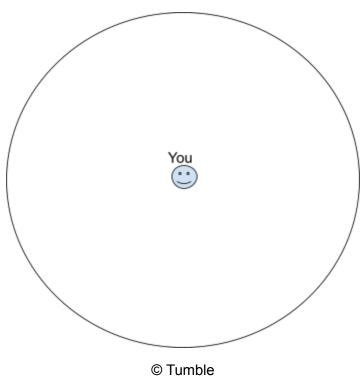
Today's Date:

Time:

1) Identify four landmarks:

#1 -#2 -#3 -#4 -

2) In the circle below, draw the location of each of your landmarks, relative to where you're standing. This will be your star map! (Note: if it's not big enough, you can draw a bigger one on a separate sheet of paper).



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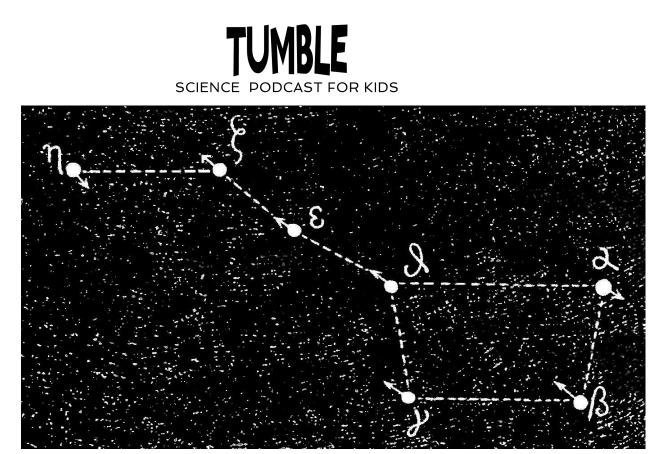


3) What's today's weather like? Note down a few things about the weather. How do you think it would affect what you can see in the night sky?

4) Find all the objects you found last time you looked. Mark them on your star map.

5) Did you see anything new this time? What was it? Draw it on your star map.

6) What are three ways that things are different tonight than they were the last time you looked up at the sky? Write them here.



7) Ursa major is the constellation pictured above. Can you find it in the sky? Draw it in your journal.

8) If you couldn't find Ursa Major, why do you think that was?



## **Reflection Questions**

1) Is there anything you noticed tonight that you'd never seen before?

2) If you saw things in the sky that you didn't notice last time, why do you think you can see them today and not last time? What do you think changed?

3) Is there anything you saw last time that appears in a different spot in the sky than last time? Why do you think that was?

4) How was the weather different tonight than it was last time? How do you think that impacted what you could see?

5) You may have noticed that the moon looks different tonight than it did last time. What changed about it? Why do you think that is?