

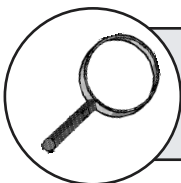
CONSTELLATION DETECTIVE

BY ERICA HOWSON



An Activity for the Whole Family from Project ASTRO™

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390 Ashton Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112 ■ www.astrosociety.org/education.html



- **Recommended for Ages:** 6 and up
- **Time to Do:** 2 minutes
- **Type of Activity:** Station
- **Set up Time:** 2 minutes

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

Constellation Detective is a quick station activity for practice in locating a constellation in a map of very dark skies. The activity is designed to introduce a few basic constellation patterns, provide a chance to look for those patterns among other stars, and reinforce the idea that more stars are visible away from city lights and clouds.

MATERIALS INCLUDED

- 3 Constellation Detective Masters (can be photocopied)
- 3 Constellation Detective Answer Key

SETTING UP THE ACTIVITY

1. Photocopy the Constellation Detective masters and distribute. If you make a just a few copies, you may want to ask people not to mark on them or take them home. Or, you may choose to make enough copies for everyone to take home.
2. Photocopy the Answer Key and make it available in a way that lets participants form their own answers first. You may choose to tape the answer key to the underside of a table, or keep it yourself and ask players to show you their guess first.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITY

This activity requires very little introduction. If people are having trouble locating the constellation, you may wish to remind them that it could be upside down or a different size than they see in the key. You may also want to specify whether or not participants can draw on the sheet

DOING THE ACTIVITY

Participants can either draw in the constellation when they locate it, or simply point to it so that the sheet can be used again.

Constellation Detective



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Have you ever tried to find constellations in a very dark sky?

Without city lights, moonlight, and clouds, we can see many more stars!

This star map shows the stars that can be seen from the middle of the Sahara Desert on a moonless, clear night.

Can you find the constellation of Orion, the Hunter?



Constellation Detective - Answer Key

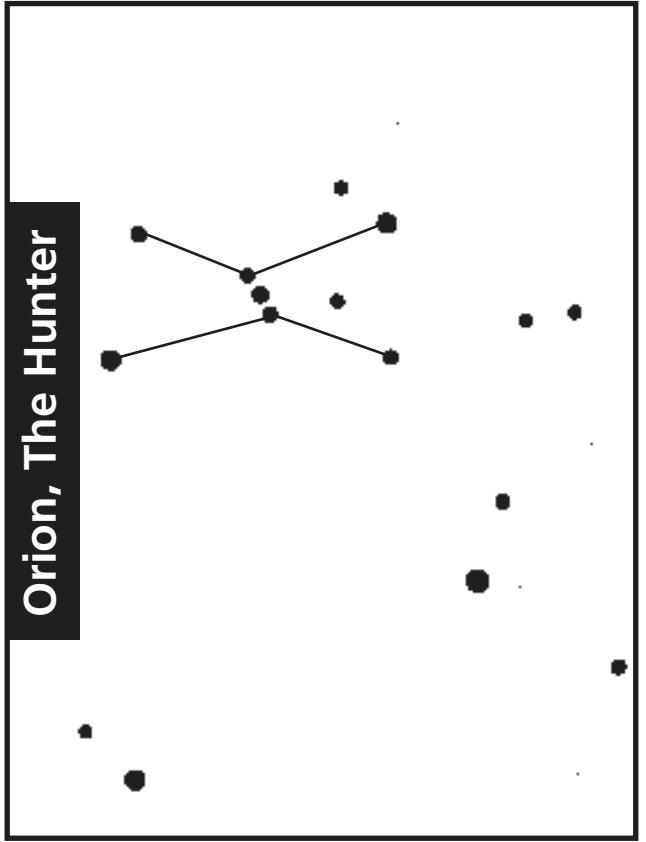


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Orion, The Hunter Answer Key



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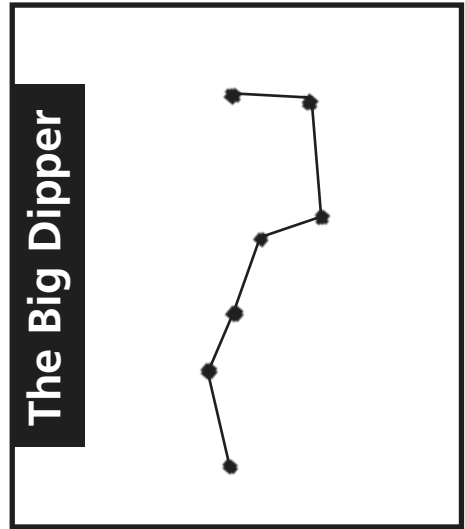
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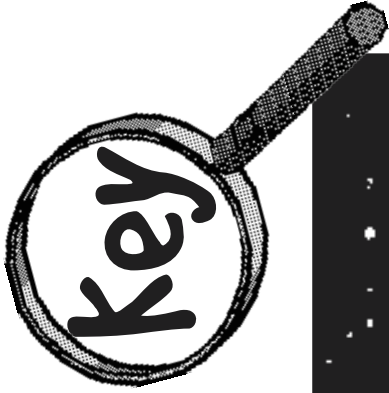
Can you find the Big Dipper?



Star Map



Constellation Detective - Answer Key

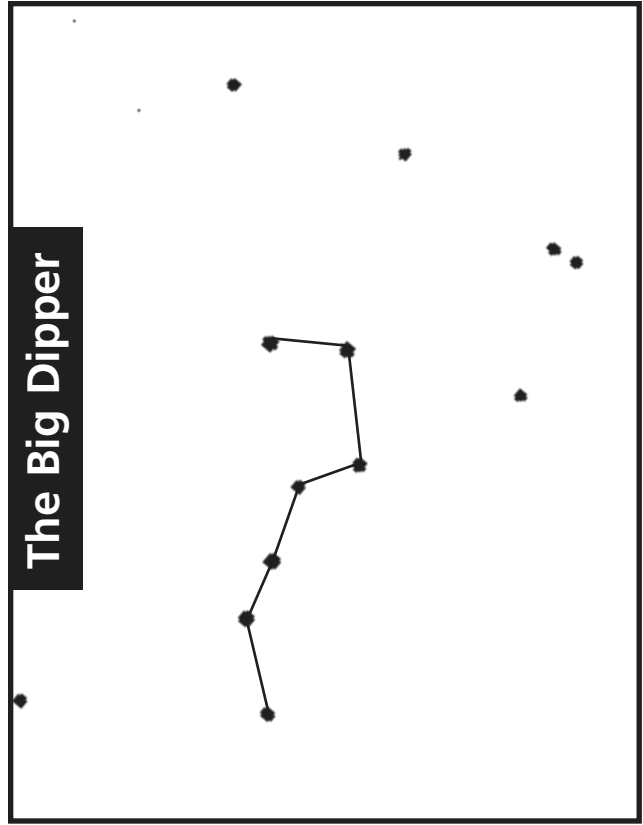


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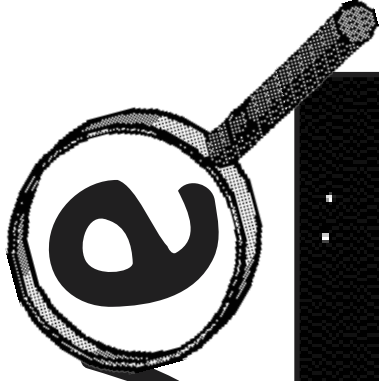
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Big Dipper Answer Key



Constellation Detective



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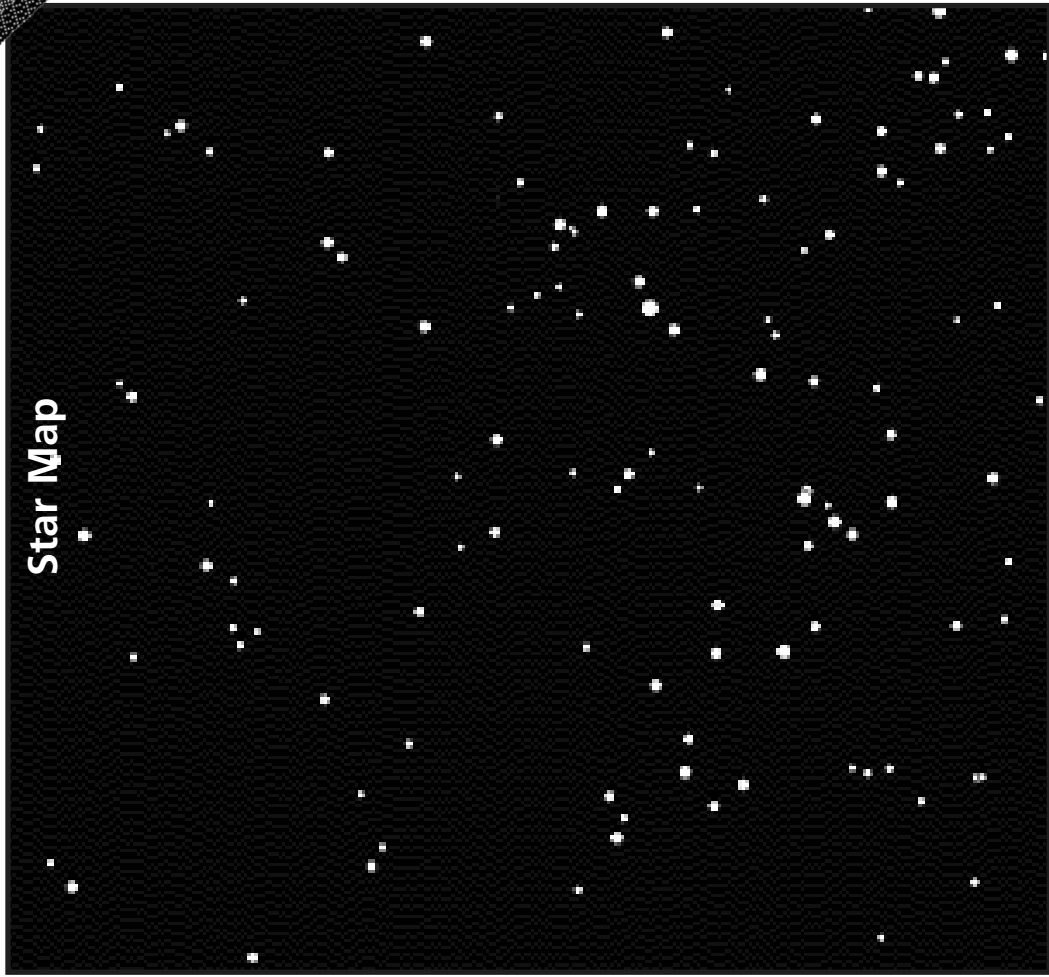
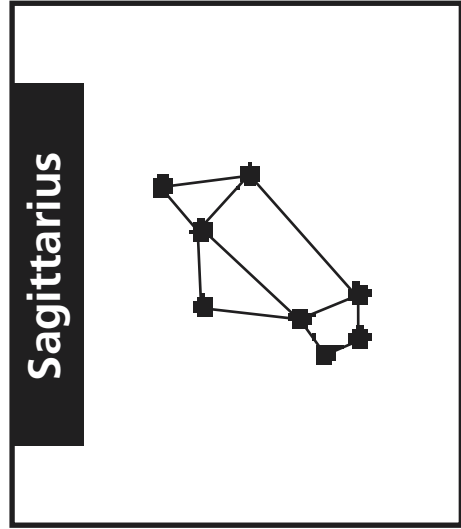
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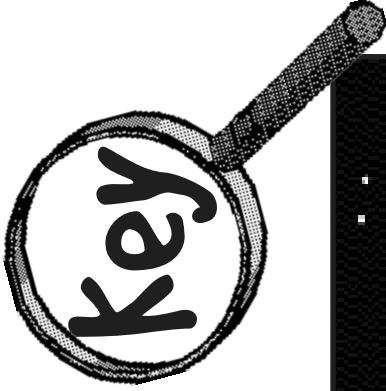
Without city lights, moonlight, and clouds, we can see many more stars!

This star map shows the stars that can be seen from the middle of the Sahara Desert on a moonless, clear night.

Can you find Sagittarius?



Constellation Detective - Answer Key

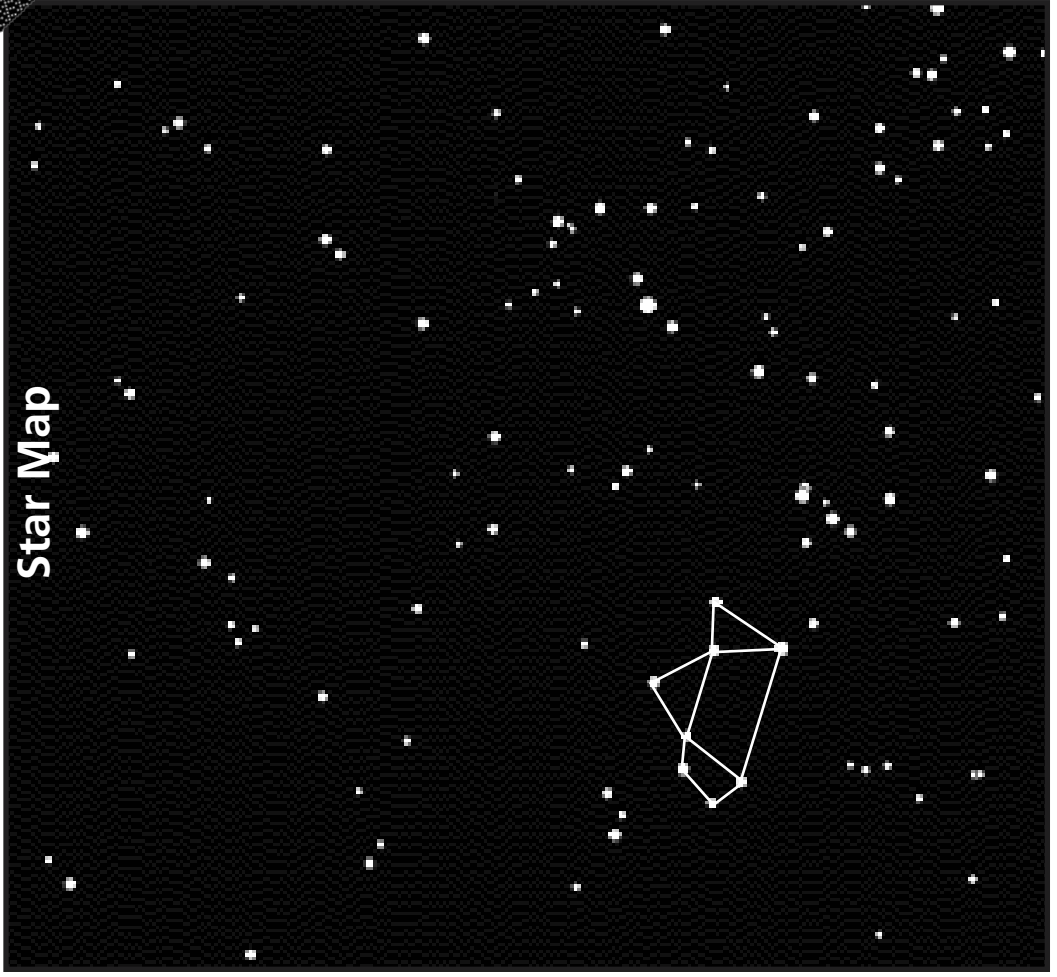
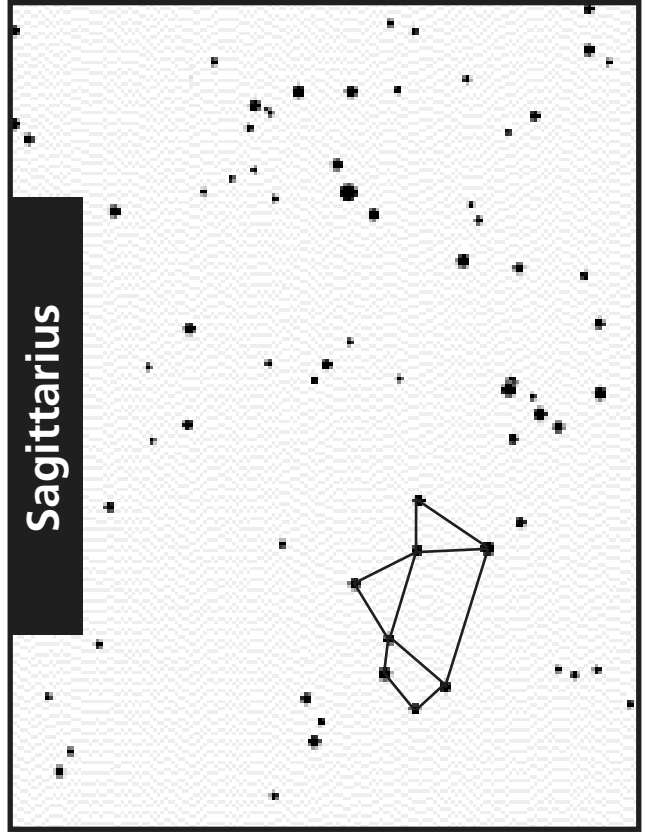


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Sagittarius Answer Key



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