Star Chart

Find and identify constellations in the night sky!

Introduction

What are constellations?

Constellations are patterns of stars in the sky that appear to make a recognizable shape by "connecting the dots". Throughout history, these shapes have been given names and meanings. Depending on the time of year and where you are on Earth, determines which constellations you might see! By creating this Star Chart, you can use it to find and identify constellations in your view of the night sky!

1 CUT IT OUT

2 PUT IT TOGETHER

3 USE IT!

Planets

Planets are visible in the sky too! You might be able to see Venus, Mars, Jupiter & Saturn!

Moon

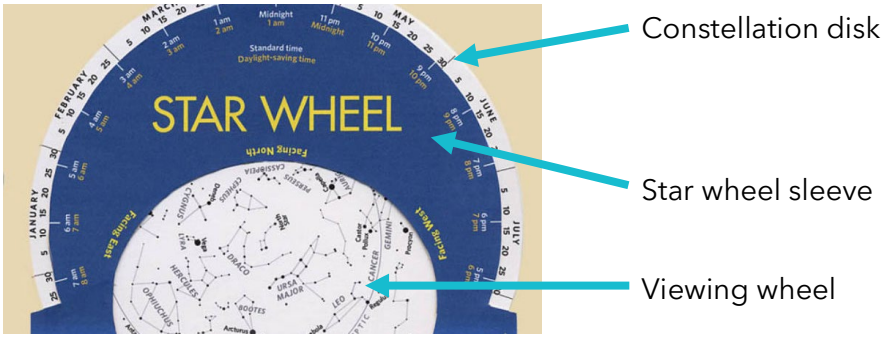
The moon's shape appears to change in the sky because of its position opposite the sun, called phases. The 'New Moon' phase is the best time to see stars & planets!

Sun

The Sun is a star! It is the closest star to Earth, and provides us with light, warmth & energy.

Materials

Scissors
Stapler or Glue stick
Star Chart Disk
Star Chart Wheel



1

CUT IT OUT

Instructions

The first step in creating your own Star Chart is to cut out the pieces you need! Cut out the disk (the page with the white circle full of constellations), and the wheel. When you cut out the star wheel sleeve, follow the black line at the bottom, too. You'll need the black rectangle at the bottom! You will also need to cut out the white oval, the viewing window, on the wheel.

2

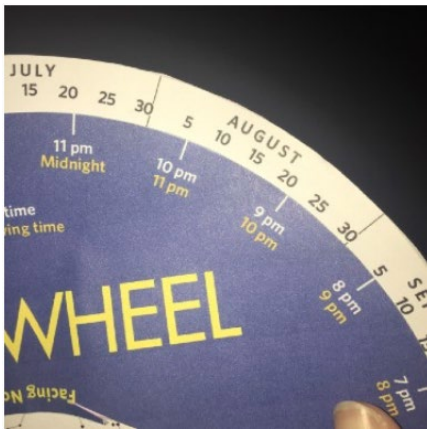
PUT IT TOGETHER

Step two is putting your Star Chart together. Fold the bottom of the star wheel (the black rectangle) up behind the wheel. If you have stapler, you'll use two staples on either side of the shell (indicated by two who vertical lines) to secure it. If you do not have a stapler, you can use glue stick, tape, or paper clips. *If using glue on the edges and corners on the back of the wheel - don't get too close to the open circle because you need room for the disk to sit.

3

USE IT!

To use your Star Chart first pick the current date and hour, and align the Star Chart so the date (rim of the constellation disk) matches the time along the edge of the wheel sleeve. Then, hold the Star Chart in front of you and look at the yellow "Facing" labels around the viewing window. Turn the entire wheel so that the yellow label for the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The starts at the bottom of the viewing window should match the stars in front of you. Remember the star patterns will look larger in the sky.



Example:
Viewing set to **10pm** on **August 6th**

Looking **West**

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society

STAR WHEEL

Standard time
Daylight-saving time

Midnight
1 am

1 am
2 am

2 am
3 am

3 am
4 am

4 am
5 am

5 am
6 am

6 am
7 am

7 am
8 am

11 pm
Midnight

10 pm
11 pm

9 pm
10 pm

8 pm
9 pm

7 pm
8 pm

6 pm
7 pm

5 pm
6 pm

Facing North

Facing East

Facing West

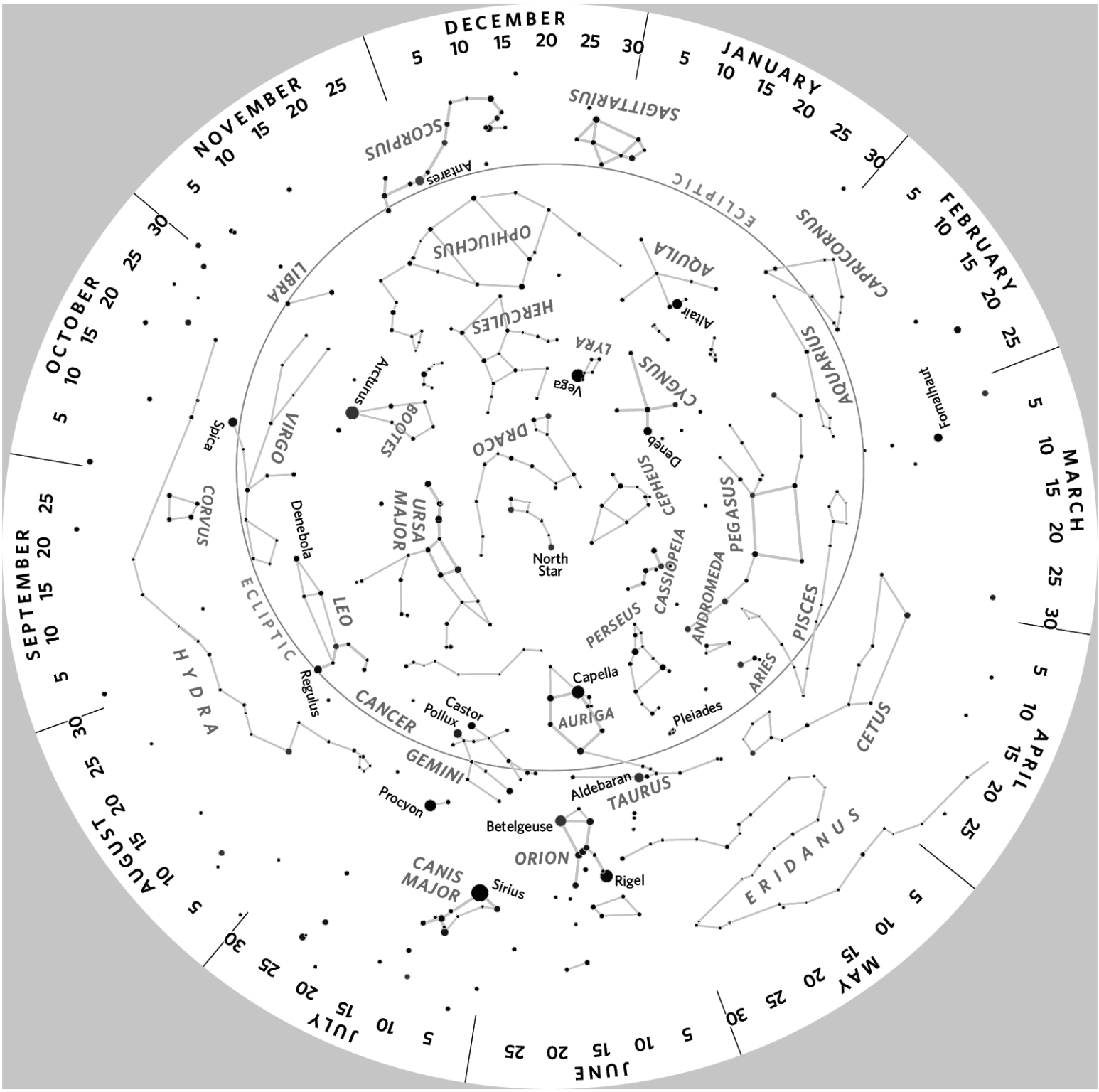
Facing South

HORIZON

HORIZON

SKY & TELESCOPE

www.skyandtelescope.com


DECEMBER
5 10 15 20 25 30
JANUARY
5 10 15 20 25 30
FEBRUARY
5 10 15 20 25
MARCH
5 10 15 20 25 30
APRIL
5 10 15 20 25
MAY
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JUNE
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JULY
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AUGUST
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SEPTEMBER
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OCTOBER
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NOVEMBER
5 10 15 20 25
ECLIPTIC
SAGITTARIUS
SCORPIUS
Antares
LIBRA
OPHIUCHUS
AQUILA
Altair
CAPRICORNUS
AQUARIUS
Fomalhaut
HERCULES
LYRA
Vega
CYGNUS
Arcturus
BOÖTES
VIRGO
Spica
DRACO
Deneb
CEPHEUS
CORVUS
URSA MAJOR
Denebola
North Star
PEGASUS
CASSIOPEIA
ANDROMEDA
PISCES
PERSEUS
ARIES
LEO
ECLIPTIC
Regulus
Capella
Castor
Pollux
AURIGA
Pleiades
CETUS
HYDRA
CANCER
GEMINI
Procyon
Aldebaran
TAURUS
Betelgeuse
ORION
Rigel
CANIS MAJOR
Sirius
ERIDANUS