

PIPE CLEANER CONSTELLATIONS

YOU'LL NEED:

- Pipe cleaners
- Plastic beads (recommend star-shaped beads, glow-in-the-dark beads, or letter beads)
- Constellation examples
- Scissors, if needed

HOW-TO:

1. Select which constellations you want to create. Check out the example sheet or search the Web for images of constellations.
2. Thread the number of needed beads onto a pipe cleaner.
3. Bend, fold, or twist the pipe cleaner to make your constellation shape and arrange beads based on the example or image.

Depending on the constellation you've selected, you might need to use more than one pipe cleaner, or you might need to cut your pipe cleaner.

To keep beads in place at the ends, you can fold your pipe cleaner over to create a thicker piece. You can also connect more than one pipe cleaner by folding them to create joints.

4. You're done! Let the stars shine bright!

Bonus: Paint or print out a sky scene and see if you can arrange the constellations you've made as they would appear in the sky. Search for a constellation map on the Web to guide your mapping.

Alternate: Use letter beads as stars to spell the name of the constellations, using letter beads for each star in the grouping. (This won't work for every constellation.)

LEARN MORE & EXPLORE:

- Look up what constellations are visible this month – visit Popastro.com or Astronomy.com as a starting place. And then go stargazing.
- Research how a star forms and more fun facts. (*Scholastic* has a great article, "All About Stars.")
- Research how a telescope works.
- Research what an astronomer does and what education and experience it takes to become one.

