

TURN YOUR CLASSROOM INTO A PLANETARIUM

Students love studying the stars! Learn how to teach constellations in a whole new, creative way while turning your classroom into a magical place. Your students will love this natural science activity.

STEP 1. Divide your students into small groups, and assign each group a constellation to study. Try to pick constellations that have a mythological background, such as Pisces, Orion, Taurus, and Gemini.

STEP 2. Invite students to research their constellations, including how to identify the constellation in the night sky and the mythological story behind it.

STEP 3. Using giant poster board, have students illustrate how the constellation looks in the night sky. Using glow paint, glitter, or bright markers will really make the stars stand out. Once dry, hang them on the ceiling.

STEP 4. Turn the lights off in the classroom and have everyone find a spot to lie down. (If you plan ahead, you can even let students bring in a pillow or stuffed animal from home.)

STEP 5. Go through each constellation on the ceiling, and let the groups talk about them. Encourage students to share how to locate the constellation in the night sky, as well as the legend behind it.



ACTIVITY #3

Benefit: Increase Creativity

Focus Skills: Astronomy, Research, Observation