Starry-Eyed

Make a star-lit light box and learn about the constellations, groups of fixed clusters of stars. It's fun and it's easy, and you and your friends will be headed for stardom.

**What to do:** Using the nail, punch "star" holes in the box lid. Follow your favorite star-chart patterns from astronomy books, or from looking overhead at the night sky where you live.

Depending on the size of the box and the lid, you should be able to punch in a large pattern or two or more smaller constellations on one lid.

Now, press the narrow end or handle of the flashlight against the center of the other end of the box and draw a circle around it. Then cut a hole in it and fit the flashlight into the box. (This can be done by removing the lid and pushing the handle through the hole.)

You are now ready to dazzle your friends with your new star-lit light box. By rotating a lid or turning the box, you can even make the constellations move. Take it into a dark room and point it, with the flashlight on, at the ceiling or wall and enjoy the starry-eyed show.

**What happens:** Your light box projects groups of small, starlike, light spots on the ceiling or wall.

**Why:** Different constellations seem to sweep across the sky, and are seen only at certain times of the year. From week to week, and at the same time every night, their positions change, as they move a little farther to the west.

The orbit or path the earth takes around the sun, and its position at certain times of the year, determines whether you can see certain constellations or not. In winter, the summer constellations are blocked out by the sun's light while the winter constellations are blocked out in the summer.

**YOU NEED**

- oatmeal box with lid-(several lids are best)
- nail
- flashlight
- pencil