CONSTELLATION DETECTIVE
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An Activity for the Whole Family
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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
3 Constellation Detective Masters
3 Constellation Detective Answer Key

SETTING UP
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
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.

ACTIVITY
Children use worksheets to find constellations and then help others locate them.
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

Orion, The Hunter

Star Map
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 The Big Dipper?
Constellation Detective - Answer Key

Star Map

The Big Dipper
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 Sagittarius?