

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FOURTH GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Stars and Constellations

Theme: Physical Science

Unit Number: **Unit Title:** Solar System

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

stars, constellations

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will learn about stars and constellations and use their imaginations to apply knowledge.

Details: First, explain what a star is and its formation then discuss the makeup of constellations and what we should expect them to look like. The books are helpful visual aids, and more exciting than teaching. Some starter questions are: What is a star made of? What's the closest star to our planet? How many stars are in the universe? Similar questions can be asked about the constellations. I then showed my students a map of the night sky and pointed out some of the most well-known constellations. I also showed my students some pictures formed by using straight lines to connect stars and produce images. I then gave each student a black piece of construction paper and piece of white chalk and asked them to draw their own constellations, and reminded them of the "rules" about only drawing straight lines between the stars. I then read them the other book about constellations - the arts and crafts break served to garner their attention for longer. We then went outside and I let them draw large-scale constellations on the chalk.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

1. Book on the origin and life cycle of stars (I like Magic School Bus because it is both interesting and informative.)

2. A map of constellations. (I found a fold-out map in a National Geographic magazine.)
3. Black construction paper.
4. Chalk or white crayons.
5. A list of constellations.
6. A book with some examples and descriptions of constellations.
7. Sidewalk chalk.

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)