

IDENTIFY STARS

So, we are going to identify some stars. And I'm not talking about those Hollywood ones we see on TV. I'm talking real stars. You've seen them all your life at night. But let's see if we can decipher a few constellations.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

Identify five constellations.

LEVEL H

PERIOD 5

TASK 3

The first thing you'll need is a star chart. Now be warned, the stars move through the year, so you'll need a star chart that is appropriate for this time of the year. Do a search for star chart including the month and year. You'll find lots of people hosting resources.

1. You'll want a dark sky on a clear night. If you can get somewhere without light pollution that will help too.

2. You will need to orientate your star chart, so you are looking the right direction. Finding north is the usual thing to do and try to identify the North Star (Polaris). This is one of the brightest stars and is always in the same place. If you live closer to the equator, it will be close to the horizon. If you live closer to the North Pole, it is further up in the sky. (If you live at the North Pole, it will be straight up.)

3. Now, compare your chart, with the night sky. Once you have found Polaris, you should be able to start finding other constellations. See how you do finding these:

- Try the Big Dipper (Part of Ursa Major and the neck of the "Great Bear." One of my favorites, of course)
- The Little Dipper (Ursa Minor and the Little Bear)
- Taurus (The Bull)
- Gemini (The Twins)
- Orion (The Hunter)

