

# Your Constellation

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**Objective:** For each student to become adept at finding information about objects within one constellation. You will become the local expert on this region of space. Since we will all share our information, this is a great exercise in group cooperation as well as individual initiative.

1. Choose a constellation

Choices: Cygnus, Gemini, Lyra, Scorpius, Ursa Major, Cassiopeia

2. Circle it on the all-sky map, and indicate its borders.

List the coordinate ranges (maximum and minimum of RA and Dec)

What constellations border yours?

3. Choose the relevant photocopy from an atlas.

Indicate any special lines which are in your constellation, such as the equator, ecliptic, or the galactic plane.

Identify the major stars, and list each one's brightness (visual magnitude) and spectral type and temperature.

4. When is your constellation visible from New Jersey?

5. Sketch the constellation's mythological figure and tell the relevant ancient myths from Greece and from some other tribe.

6. Do any planets ever appear in your constellation? When?

Any asteroids, comets, or Kuiper Belt objects?

7. Make a list of unusual deep sky objects in your constellation, such as double stars, star clusters, variable stars, planetary nebulae, emission or reflection nebulae, galaxies, quasars, etc)

8. Present this information to the rest of the class next week.