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# FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & planetarium



## Space Science Adventurer Badge for the Brownie Group

*Constellations*

Teacher: Hannah Buckner

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*The following instructions represent additional resources for continued study of the topics covered in our "Space Science Adventurer Badge for the Brownie Group" online class. All materials are the property of Planetarium Educator Hannah Buckner who created them. Any websites included are the property of the individual website owners and have been reviewed by a Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium educator.*

## Overview & Purpose

Students will be able to recognize a handful of constellations and be able to share one of their stories to pass on the legends

## Objectives

- Be able to know where in the sky and the shape of a certain constellation
- Describe the mythology behind a constellation

## Highlights of this Lesson

1. Many constellations are tied to Ancient Greek myths that tell stories about heroes, gods, and monsters
2. Constellation groups tend to be near each other in the night sky
3. The North Star, Polaris, is a part of Ursa Minor and it is always in the sky.

## Lesson Vocabulary

1. **Myth** → a traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero or event, with or without a determinable basis of fact or a natural explanation,

especially one that is concerned with deities or demigods and explains some practice, rite, or phenomenon of nature.

2. **Constellation** → a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure. Modern astronomers divide the sky into eighty-eight constellations with defined boundaries.
3. **Hero** → a being, usually a demigod, with godlike prowess and beneficence who often came to be honored as a divinity.

## Materials

Please read the assignment and decide what materials you will need to complete it. You will need to access this website to choose the myth(s) you want to share: <https://greekgodsandgoddesses.net/myths/constellations/>

## Homework

*This assignment will help you remember some myths which will aid in remembering constellations.*

### Telling Stellar Myths

In this activity, you will be sharing the stories and myths of the constellations you learned about. Please choose a constellation from the link above and learn about the mythology associated with that constellation. It is recommended that you also search Google for more information on the myths if you want to learn more or tell a more detailed story.

Once you have chosen your myth, pick a way to share it with family and friends. Some options that you pick from but are not limited to:

- A book
- A play / musical
- A short movie
- A song

## Extra Astronomy Resources

*Please note that we are not sponsored by these organizations and sites.*

- NASA Space Place: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/search/kids/>
- Crash Course Kids Space Science Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhz12vamHONa6ySCBRBGgCLLoTbMgqMzd>

- Crash Course Astronomy: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtPAJr1ysd5yGIyiSFuh0mLL>
- Institute of Physics: <http://www.iop.org/#gref>
- The American Astronomical Society (AAS): <https://aas.org/>
- The American Institute of Physics (AIP): <https://www.aip.org/>
- PBS Earth and Space Science: <https://vermont.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/earth-and-space-science/>
- The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) ComPADRE Resources for Physics and Astronomy Education: <https://www.compadre.org/?>
- Phil Plait's Bad Astronomy: <http://www.badastronomy.com/index.html>

## Have Any Questions?

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to reach AmeriCorps Educator Hannah Buckner at [hbuckner@fairbanksmuseum.org](mailto:hbuckner@fairbanksmuseum.org).

