

# Constellations

Our early ancestors first looked up thousands of years ago, observing the stars we see today, small pinpoints of light in the night time sky. Early astronomers grouped the stars into constellations, and travellers used them to navigate at night, over land and at sea. The motions of the stars in these constellations helped people build the first calendars and to know when to prepare the fields and when to harvest their crops.

*\*A constellation forms a recognisable pattern that is normally named after its apparent form or is identified with a mythological figure.*

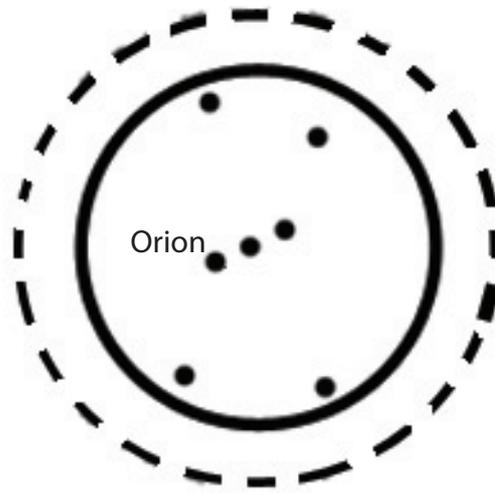
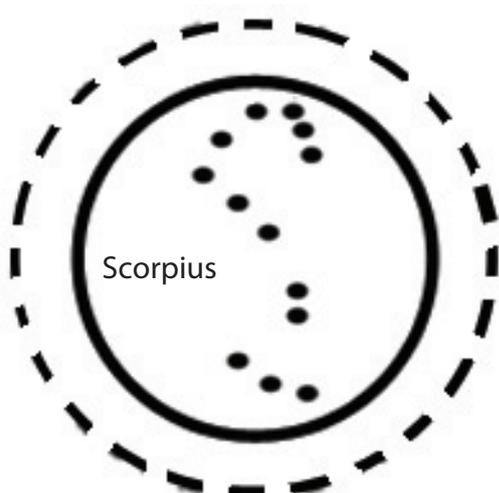
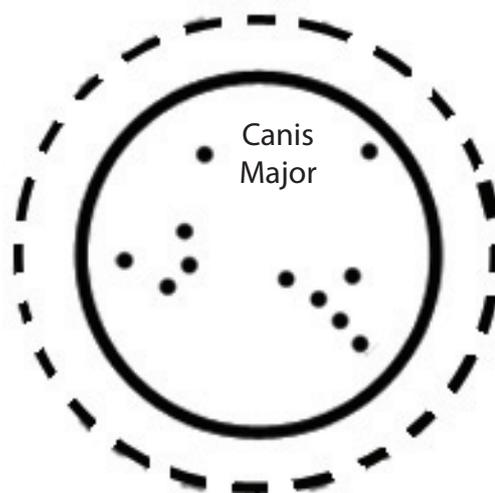
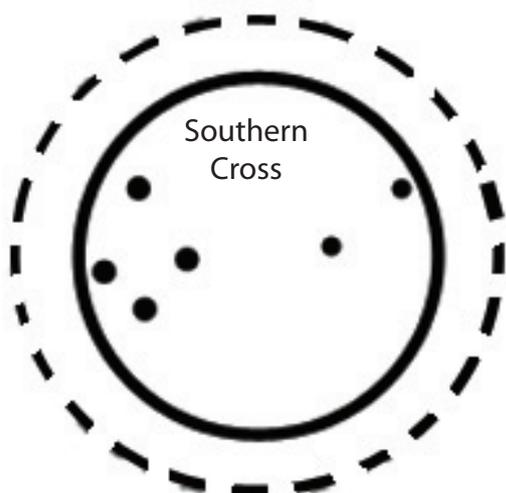
## Make a Constellation Viewer

### You will need:

Cardboard tubes, black paper or card, pencil, scissors, sticky tape, circular star maps.

### What to do:

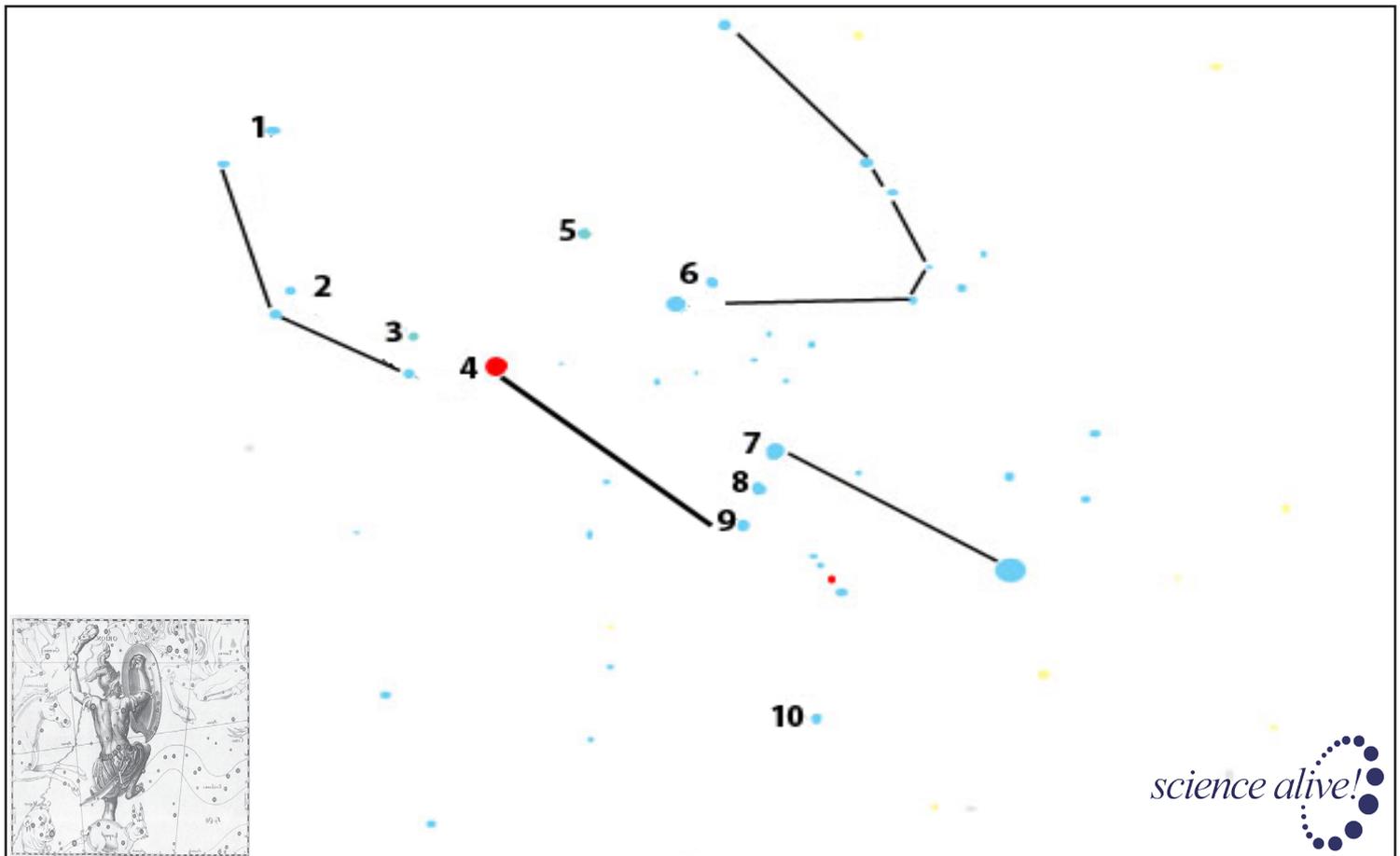
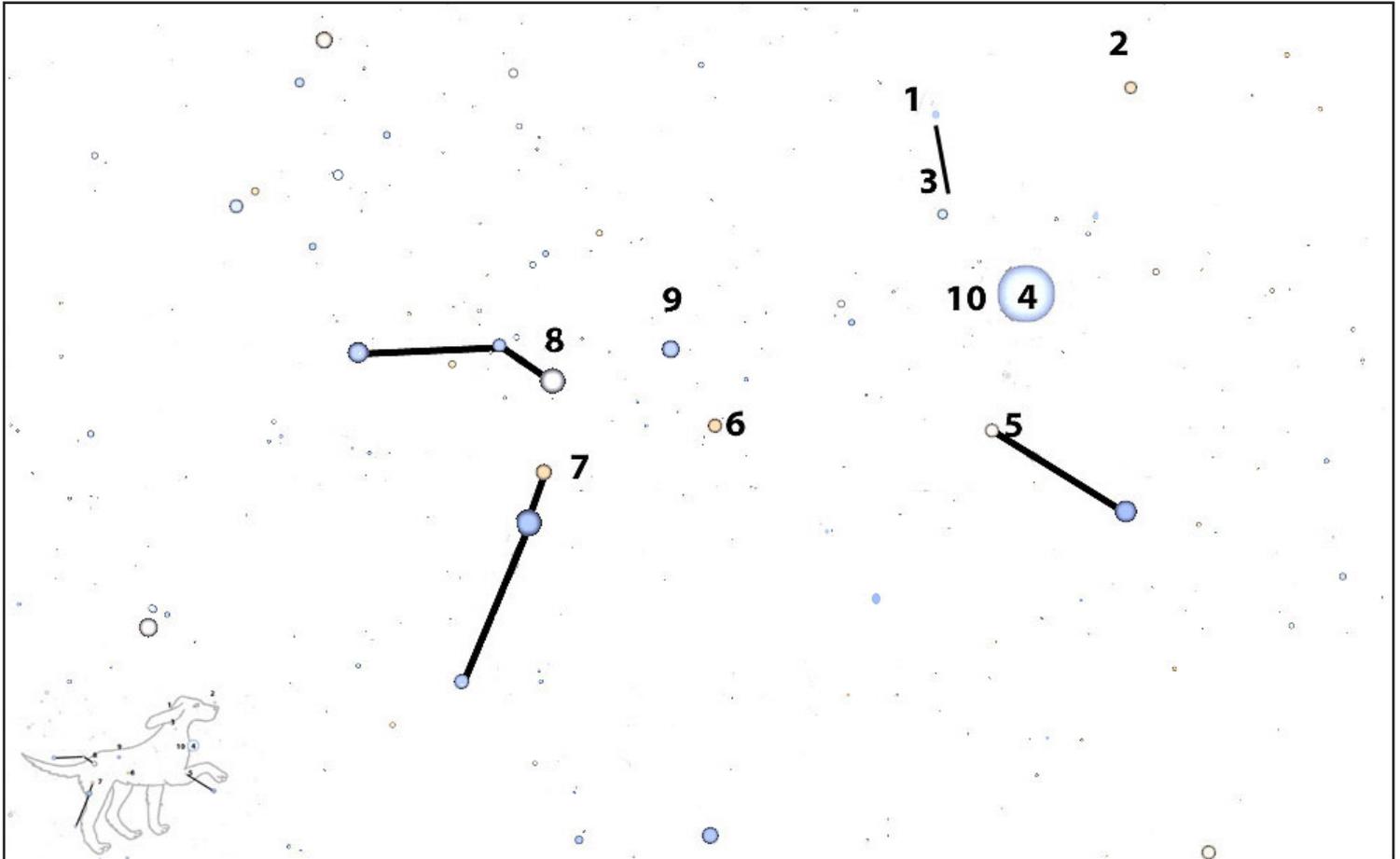
1. Cut out or print and cut out each of the circular star maps.
2. Place each star map on a same size circular piece of black paper. Use some tape to keep the star map in position.
3. Poke a hole with a pencil through every dot on the star map.
4. Use some tape to put the star map on one end of the tube.
5. Hold the viewer towards the light. Look through the open end to see your constellation.
6. Or put a small torch inside the tube. Point the viewer at the ceiling and switch on the torch.



# Create the Constellations

In New Zealand we see these constellations upside down.

Join the dots to create the constellations Canis Major (Big Dog) and Orion The Hunter

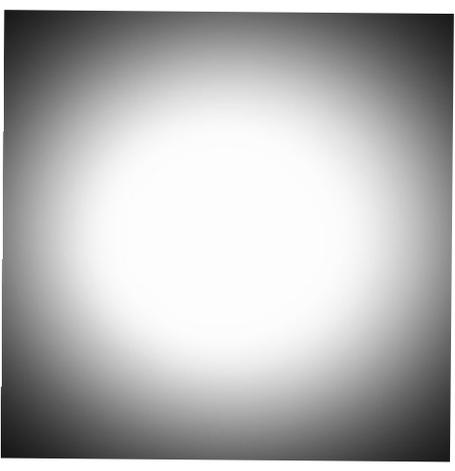


Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# My Little Book of Constellations

A star is a self-luminous celestial body. It is made of gas held together by its own gravity.



Colour your star either, blue, red, white or yellow.

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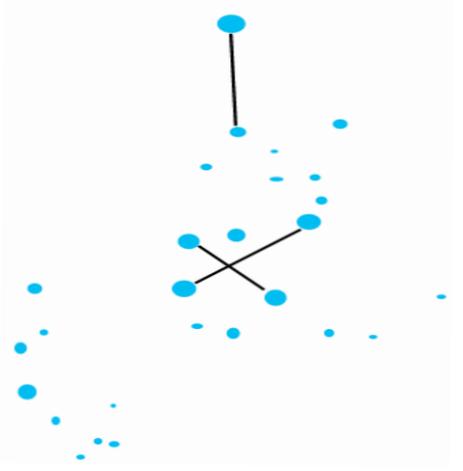
Finish off the word clues to the four hidden constellation names.

Cut along this dark part of the line

A constellation creates a pattern that is normally named after a form or figure.



Can you make a constellation with these stars?

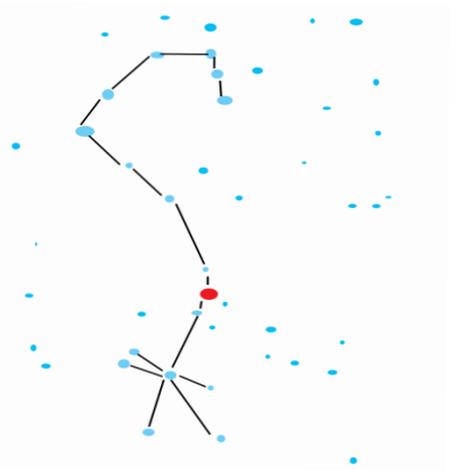
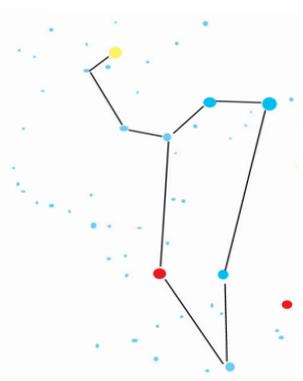


The Southern Cross is the smallest constellation in the sky, but one of the most recognised. It is used for navigation and does not dip below the New Zealand horizon.

Cut along this dark part of the line

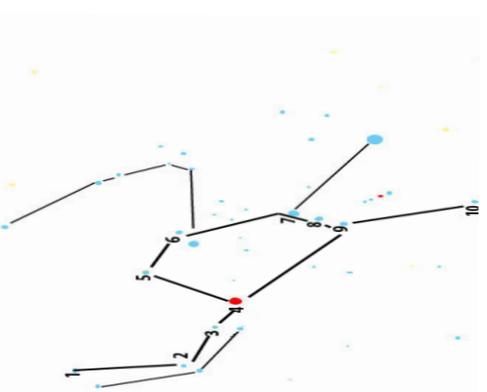
(Sing to the tune *Twinkle, Twinkle*)

Constellations in the sky.  
How you got there, I wonder why?  
Leo, scorpion and Orion  
Can you see the great big lion?  
Constellations in the sky.  
How you got there, I wonder why?



Scorpius the Scorpion was sent to kill Orion the hunter.

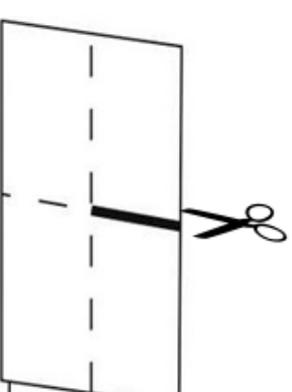
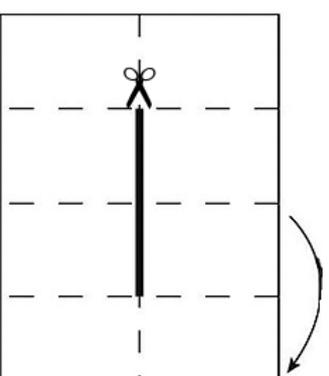
Orion was a great huntsman in Greek mythology. Unfortunately Orion displeased the gods and Zeus placed him among the stars.



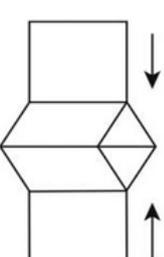
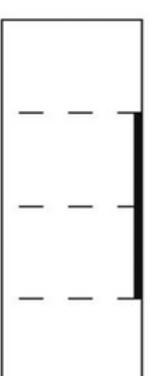
As seen in New Zealand

# Instructions to make Constellation booklet

- 1, Fold the paper in half to cut along the middle dark line.  
*(Before starting it may be an idea to fold the paper over to create the edges along each line)*



- 2, Unfold and then refold in half the other way. Next push in the sides to create a diamond like shape.



- 3, Flatten the sides together to make a cross shape, then fold the paper to make the pages.

