

MAKING A STAR VIEWER

The following are directions on how to construct the "shoe box constellation viewer." The "shoe box constellation viewer" is a constellation recognition aid. Each student will construct a single viewer and many constellation cards. The students will use these boxes as a practice device and a way to quiz other students.

Materials

- One shoebox with lid per student
- Scissors
- Index cards
- Black paint
- Star maps
- Safety pins
- Tape

Directions

1. Cut a 1-centimeter hole in one end of the shoebox and a 7 x 13-centimeter hole in the opposite end, a little smaller than the index card.
2. Paint the outside of your shoebox black. You may decorate it as you wish.
3. Find constellations on the star map. Draw your constellation on an index card using pencil.
4. Carefully use the safety pin to poke a hole through each star in the constellation.
5. On the reverse side, give a brief description of the myth associated with your constellation.
6. Slide the constellation card over the large opening, and put the lid on the box.
7. Hold the shoebox up to a bright light and look through the smaller hole.
8. Once you have one constellation card that works, make 10 others and pass them out to the class. (Don't forget one for Mr. Fusco!)
9. Once you've completed, you should have a full set of constellations so you and your classmates can practice identifying them.