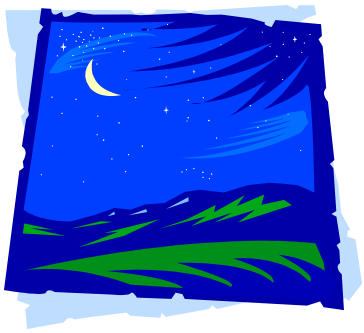

HOW MANY STARS IN THE SKY?

by

Lenny Hort

It is quite an undertaking for a small boy to try to count all the stars in the sky. He realizes that they are *changing* position as he counts, being blocked by trees and buildings, and not easy to see because of all the background light. Once he and his dad get out in the country, he would have a manageable task if he decided to count the stars in several major constellations.

He would need to have a simple star finder which he could carry with him at all times. This is easily made by mounting a rotating star map on the inside of a manila folder.

MATERIALS: two manila folders, rubber cement or glue, star map patterns, stapler, and brass fastener

ACTIVITY: Make star finder by gluing two patterns to a manila folder and then cutting pieces out. Use brass fastener to attach circle with constellations onto center of second manila folder. Then position star map so that NSEW "ride" around the outside of the circle; then staple in place.
To use: on the next clear night, take your star finder outside away from as much background light as possible. Let your eyes adjust to the darkness and hold the star map above your head and lining up north on the star finder with the direction north. See how many constellations you can find and how many stars you can count.

SOURCE: Workshop given by Ralph Yulo at CSEAC Convention 1989.

STANDARDS:
BSL: 1.2, 1.7, 1.11, 4.1, 9.3, 9.7
NCTM: 9c, 9e

SCS: A1, B2, B3, D2, H3, H5

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star map

N
midnight
11 pm
10 pm
9 pm
8 pm
W
7 pm
6 pm
5 pm
4 pm
3 pm
2 pm
1 am
2 am
3 am
E
5 am
6 am
7 am
S
noon
11 am
10 am
9 am
8 am
1 pm


January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
Spica
Virgo
Regulus
Procyon
Canis Minor
Sirius
Canis Major
Rigel
Orion
Betelgeuse
Aldebaran
Capella
Auriga
Pleiades
Perseus
Algol
Cassiopeia
Andromeda
Pegasus
Pisces
Cetus
Aquarius
Capricornus
Cepheus
Deneb
Cygnus
Vega
Lyra
Draco
Ursa Minor
Pole
Polaris
Ursa Major
Arcturus
Bootes
Corona Borealis
Hercules
Antares
Scorpius
Libra
Sagittarius
Aquila
Altair
Delphinus