

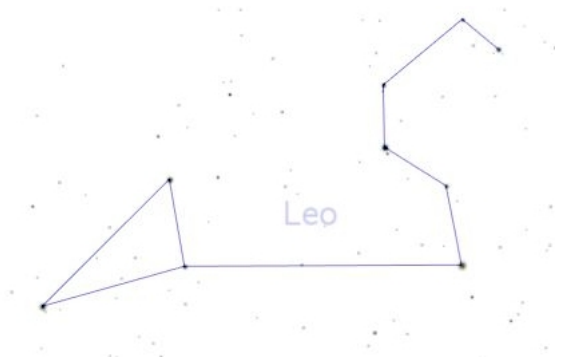
Constellations

Constellations are figures that you can draw by connecting stars as if you are connecting the dots. A long time ago, people drew pictures that reminded them of their favorite stories. Today, most of us do not even know the stories that people once told, unless we study Greek mythology. But we still learn the pictures they drew, and we call those pictures *constellations*.

Look at the picture below of a small part of the night sky. To make the picture more clear, the black sky is white, and the white stars are black.



If you connect certain stars together by drawing lines between them, you can draw a figure that looks like a lion that is lying down.



This constellation is called Leo. Does it look like a lion to you?

Believe it or not, that is one of the few constellations that is easy to recognize. Most of them look nothing like what they are supposed to look like. Sometimes, you see a constellation upside down in the sky, and that makes it even harder to recognize.

If all of us looked at the stars and tried to draw pictures (like Leo) by connecting stars with lines, we probably would all come up with different pictures.

You will be given a handout which shows some stars on March 17, 2004 at 11:00 PM as they appeared in Greensboro, NC. Draw at least 5 constellations by connecting stars with lines. Label each constellation with a number (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...).

Now, exchange your picture with a friend's picture. Guess what each constellation is. Write your answers on the lines below.

Constellation number	What the constellation look like
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

You will be given a separate handout that shows the constellations and their labels for this part of the night sky. What do you think each constellation looks like? Make a table below that lists the names of the constellation and what you think each one looks like.