

# Design Your Own Constellation

**Ages:** 7–12 (Grades 1–6)

**Duration:** 20–30 minutes

## Materials needed:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils (optional)
- Toothpick (optional)
- Your story planning worksheet

## Background information:

Use the same characters, events, setting, and details that you brainstormed in the *Reading & Making Myths* activity to complete your constellation story.

## Procedure:

1. Start by drawing the hero, animal, or object from your myth on paper. Add as many details as you like.
2. Constellations in the night sky don't look like complete drawings or illustrations. You can think of the stars that are in a constellation as the thumb tacks that hold the imaginary image up in the sky.
3. Look at your drawing. Where can you add thumbtacks to make sure your image doesn't fall down at night? Try to place no more than 7 stars in your design.
4. Are any of your constellation's stars larger than the others?
5. Next, connect your stars using straight lines, creating the internal "skeleton" or basic framework of your character or object.
6. Complete your constellation myth design. Add a title. Draw other characters or objects from your story around your main character or object. Add detail, shading, and color if you like!
7. Optional: if you have a toothpick or something of similar size, use it to poke holes where you have placed the stars for your constellation design. If you hold your paper up to light or a window, your "stars" will "light up."
8. Complete your written story. Can you take all of the story elements and rewrite them onto one page?

## Share your work:

Take a photo of your constellation and post it to Instagram using the hashtags #MuseumFromHome and #SkyLegends, and tag the Museum.

