

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Star Stories

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward students in grades K-5.

During its time of service, Intrepid was involved in the Space Race as a recovery vessel for two early space missions as the United States moved towards sending astronauts to the Moon. The names of these early space missions came from objects in space inspired by mythology.

Participants will understand that people long ago created stories inspired by constellations and determine how a constellation story inspired the name of an early space mission.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through an investigation of the origin of the names of these early space missions. The lesson culminates with participants creating their very own constellation and constellation story,

Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

Materials

- [Star Stories Slideshow](#)
- Paper
- Coloring Materials

Standards

Next Generation
Science Standards

P-ESS1-1

K-PS3-1

1-ESS1-1

Lesson

1. Introductory Activity

- Ask Participants:
 - **What do you know about spacecraft?**
 - **What are some tasks astronauts do on their missions?**
 - Discuss the responses with the group.

2. Core Activity

- Share [video](#) of a museum educator discussing the Gemini Space capsule and discuss constellations and how the Gemini Constellation got its name..
 - **Why would the Gemini mission be named after a constellation of twins?**
 - **What is a constellation?**
- Discuss constellations. Constellations are names given to groups of stars that create recognizable shape or picture. Cultures all over the world looked into the night sky and created stories with constellations as characters.
- Share [video](#) of a museum educator discussing different constellation stories. When the educator in the video asks questions, the facilitator can pause the video to collect participant responses.
- Guide participants in creating their own constellations by creating several dots on a piece of paper and connecting five to eight of those dots with constellation lines.
 - **What does your image look like to you? Does it look like an object, person, or animal?**
 - **What is a story you could tell about this object, person, or animal?**

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own. Using a blank sheet of paper and coloring materials, participants can create their own constellation story.

Have participants share their constellation stories using flipgrid using Padlet or Google Doc.

Extension Activities

To deepen student engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities :

Connect Constellation Stories

Have students share their stories with each other and work together to create a constellation story that features more than one constellation

Connect a Constellation Story to Seasonal Change

Many cultures used constellations to explain the seasons they were experiencing on Earth. Create a story for your constellation explaining why we might experience the qualities of your favorite season. Example: A story why it might be cold in winter or rain often in the spring.

Additional Resources/ References

More information on Intrepid's connection to early space travel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYmYbJqVRqQ>

Information on Project Mercury:

<https://youtu.be/XAufxg23nn8>

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