

When the Stars Came Home Additional Resources

Create Your Own Constellation!

Level

K – 6

**Student
Groupings**

individuals

Length

30 minutes

Brief description: Ojig is named after an Anishinaabe hero and is related to the constellation Gichi Ojig, which many of us know as the Big Dipper. In this activity, students invent their own constellation and write a story related to it.

Materials:

- Printed copies of the worksheets

Preamble: Constellations are patterns we have imagined in the sky. By connecting the stars with imaginary lines in creative ways, humans have put warriors, animals and gods in the sky. Different cultures invented their own constellations, based on the important characters of their own mythology and belief systems. If we were to invent constellations today, which important character, animal or object would be immortalized in the sky?

Procedure: Invite your students to invent their own constellation and to write a short story about its importance. They simply need to connect the dots the way they want.



Some information about constellations:

There are no right or wrong answers here. Constellations were all invented by humans and the constellations from different cultures are just as valid. The stars in a constellation generally don't have anything in common, other than being in the same part of the sky as seen from Earth. Scientists don't study constellations - they are not real objects in space - but we use them as a reference system to find our way in the sky.

Indigenous Connections: there are many fascinating stories about the constellations in the skies. Here are some links that explore Indigenous stories you can look at and discuss with your students:

- Wilfred Buck: <https://acakwuskwun.com/> (see the bottom of the page for videos of stories)
- Video: Gichi-ogjiig: The Legend of the Great Fisher (<https://youtu.be/U0YRj3Fgc5c?si=FXmnK3lvHK3g5MdG>)
- The Tracks Program Webinar Series: <https://www.tracksprogram.ca/blog-media/archived-giizhigoong-webinar-recordings-and-online-activities>

