Explore the

Outdoors

1st GRADE

education.com

Table of Contents

Explore the Outdoors

LET'S EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

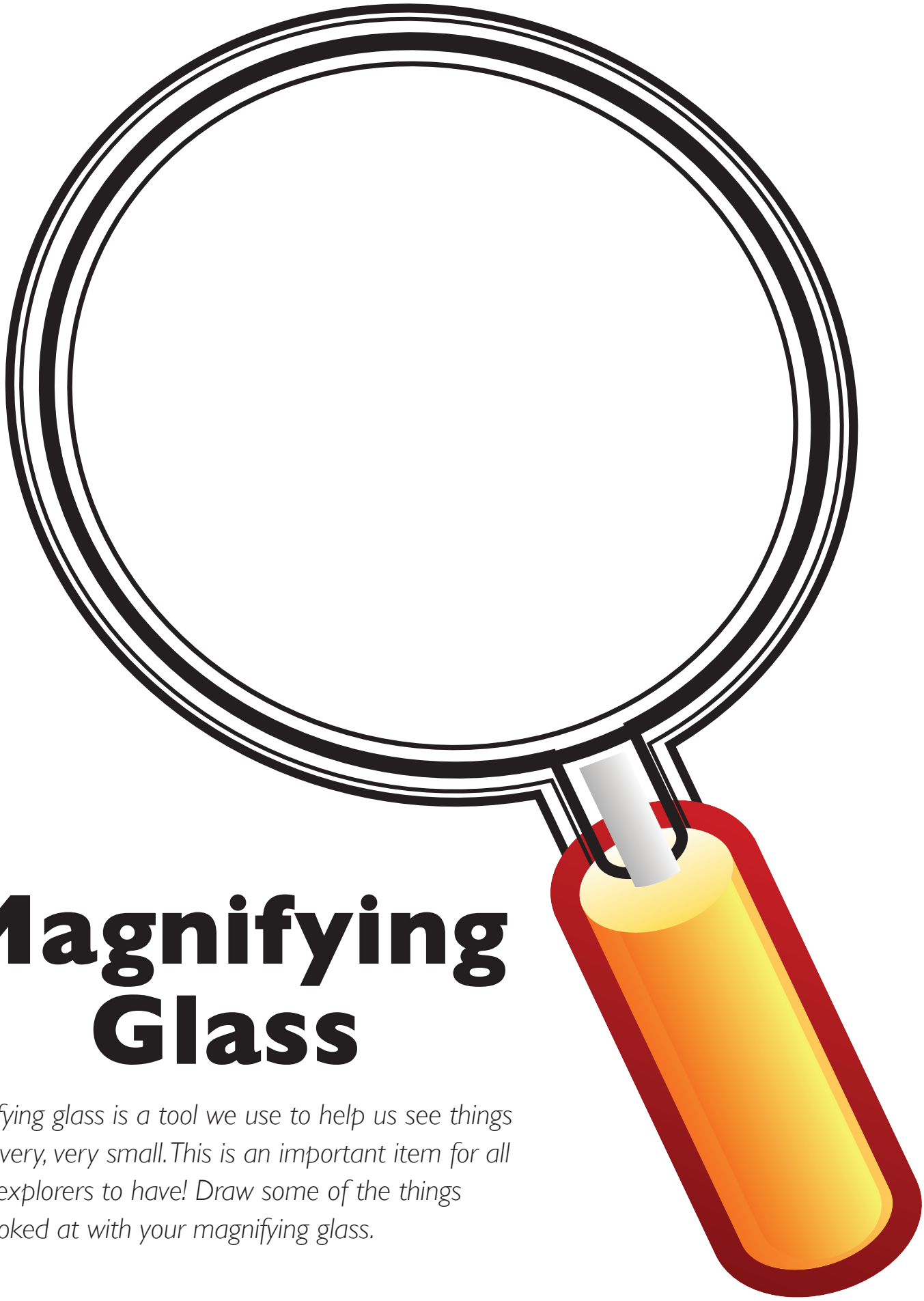
THIS NATURE JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

_____

MY GOALS FOR THE OUTDOORS

A GOAL IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO OR ACHIEVE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO SET GOALS AS A WAY TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF, AND IT IS A GREAT FEELING WHEN YOU MEET YOUR GOALS. USE THE SPACE BELOW TO WRITE SOME GOALS FOR YOUR OUTDOOR EXPLORATION!

- ☐ I WANT TO VISIT _____ NATIONAL PARK.
- ☐ I WANT TO SEE _____
- ☐ I WANT TO RUN/WALK ___ MILES IN ___ MONTHS.
- ☐ EVERY WEEK I WILL PLAY _____ OUTSIDE.
- ☐ EVERY DAY I WILL GO _____ OUTSIDE.
- ☐ I WANT TO LEARN HOW TO _____
- ☐ I WANT TO HIKE AT _____
- ☐ I WANT TO CAMP AT _____
- ☐ I WANT TO _____
- ☐ I WANT TO _____



Magnifying Glass

A magnifying glass is a tool we use to help us see things that are very, very small. This is an important item for all outdoor explorers to have! Draw some of the things you've looked at with your magnifying glass.

Animal Tracks Checklist

While walking through the woods, look out for signs that animals have been there before you. Check the soft ground like sand, mud or snow, for animal tracks. Mammals of the dog and cat families walk on four toes. You can see the claws in dog's prints, but cats retract their claws. Bears, raccoons, and rodents walk on five toes. Some animals have human-like hands, and others have hooves.
The animals pictured below are all **North American Animals**.

When you go on hikes, carry this checklist and check off the animal tracks you see.

☐ Bear 

☐ Coyote 

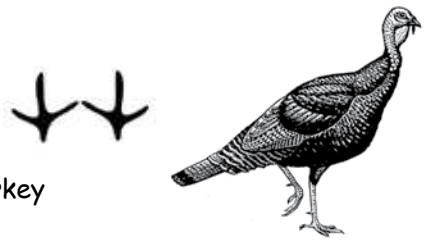
☐ Deer 

☐ Bobcat 

☐ Raccoon 

☐ Opossum 

☐ Fox 

☐ Wild Turkey 

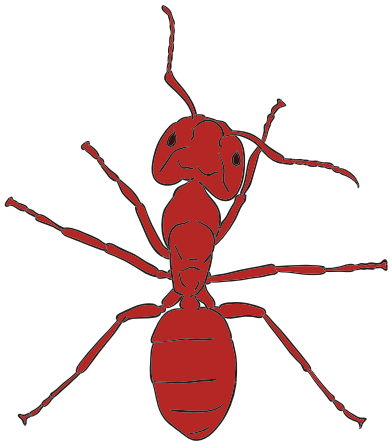
☐ Badger 

☐ Wolf 

☐ Porcupine 

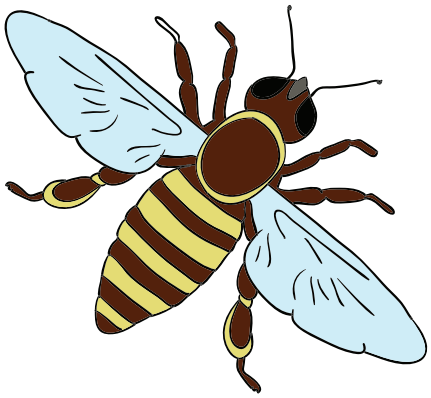
☐ Squirrel 

Bug Identification Chart



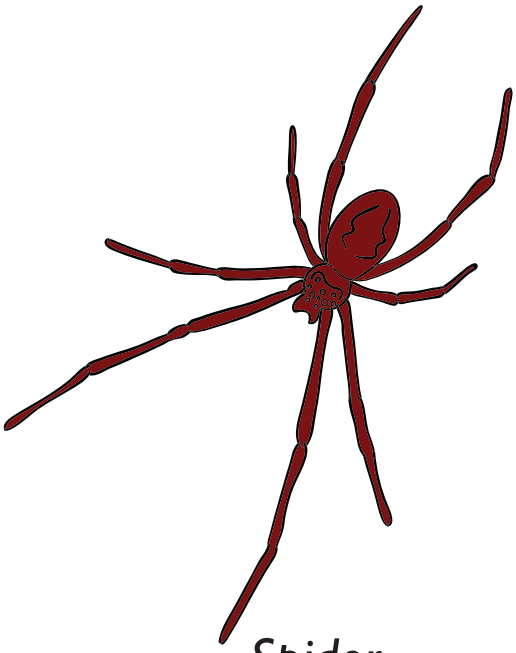
Ant

Ant colonies have one queen who lays thousands of eggs.



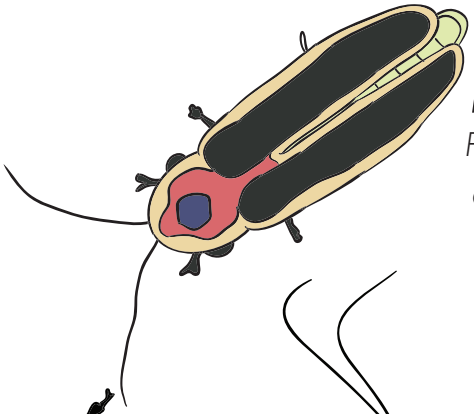
Bee

Bees help plants grow by spreading the pollen around to other plants.



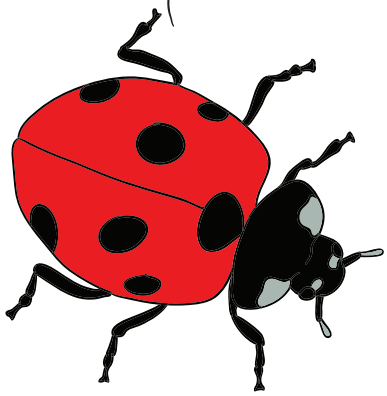
Spider

Some spider build web communities where up to 50,000 spiders may live.



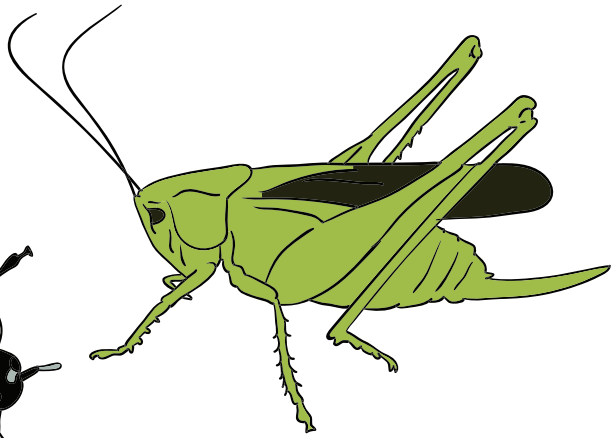
Firefly

Fireflies produce light with chemicals in their bodies.



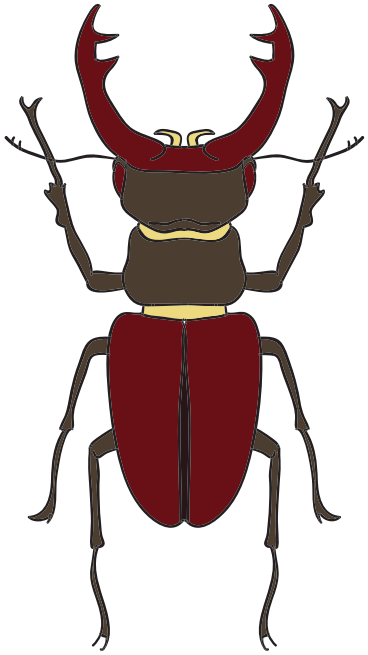
Ladybug

Ladybugs protect crops by eating plant-eating insects like aphids.



Grasshopper

An adult grasshopper can leap 10 times it's length.



Stag Beetle

The large antlers on a stag beetle are really mandibles, which are its jaws.

Now it's time to go outdoors for some observation. That means watching and noticing important or interesting things about an object. Find 4 insects that you like and draw them in the spaces below. Then write down 1 or 2 observations about each insect!

Color: Shape:

This insect is:

Color: Shape:

This insect is:

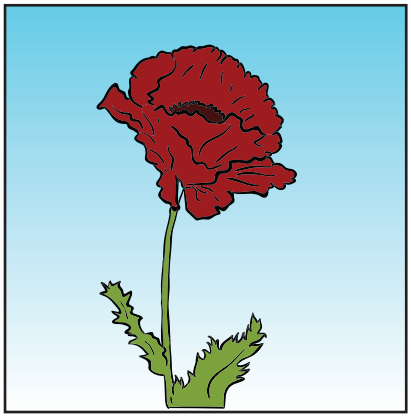
Color: Shape:

This insect is:

Color: Shape:

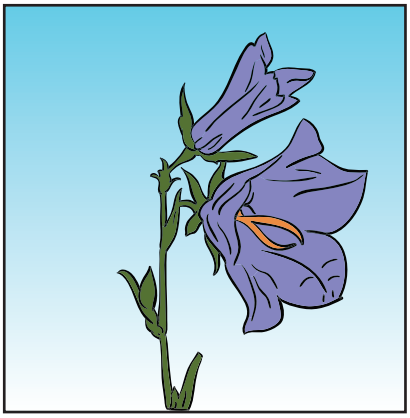
This insect is:

Flower Identification Chart



Poppy

This is the state flower of California.

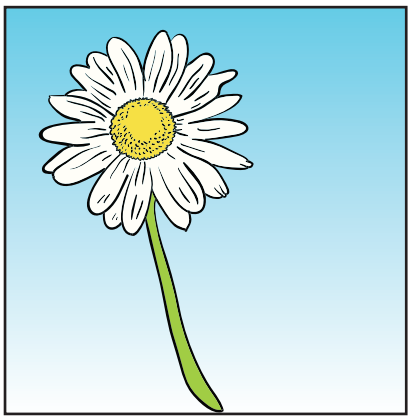


Bluebell

This purple flower hangs like a bell.

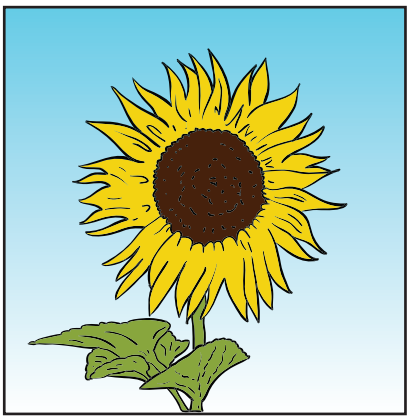
Dandelion

This flower's name means lion's tooth.



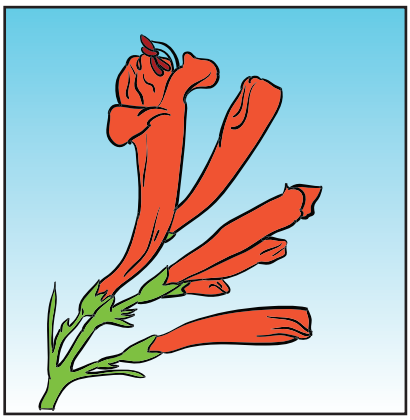
Daisy

Daisy means "day's eye" because daisies open as soon as the day begins.



Sunflower

The sunflower's bloom looks like the sun.



Honeysuckle

Many honeysuckles have a sweet smell. They are bell shaped and make a nectar that you can eat.

Now it's time to go outdoors for some observation. That means watching and noticing important or interesting things about an object. Find 4 flowers that you like and draw them in the spaces below. Then write down 1 or 2 observations about each flower!

Color: Shape:

This flower is:

Color: Shape:

This flower is:

Color: Shape:

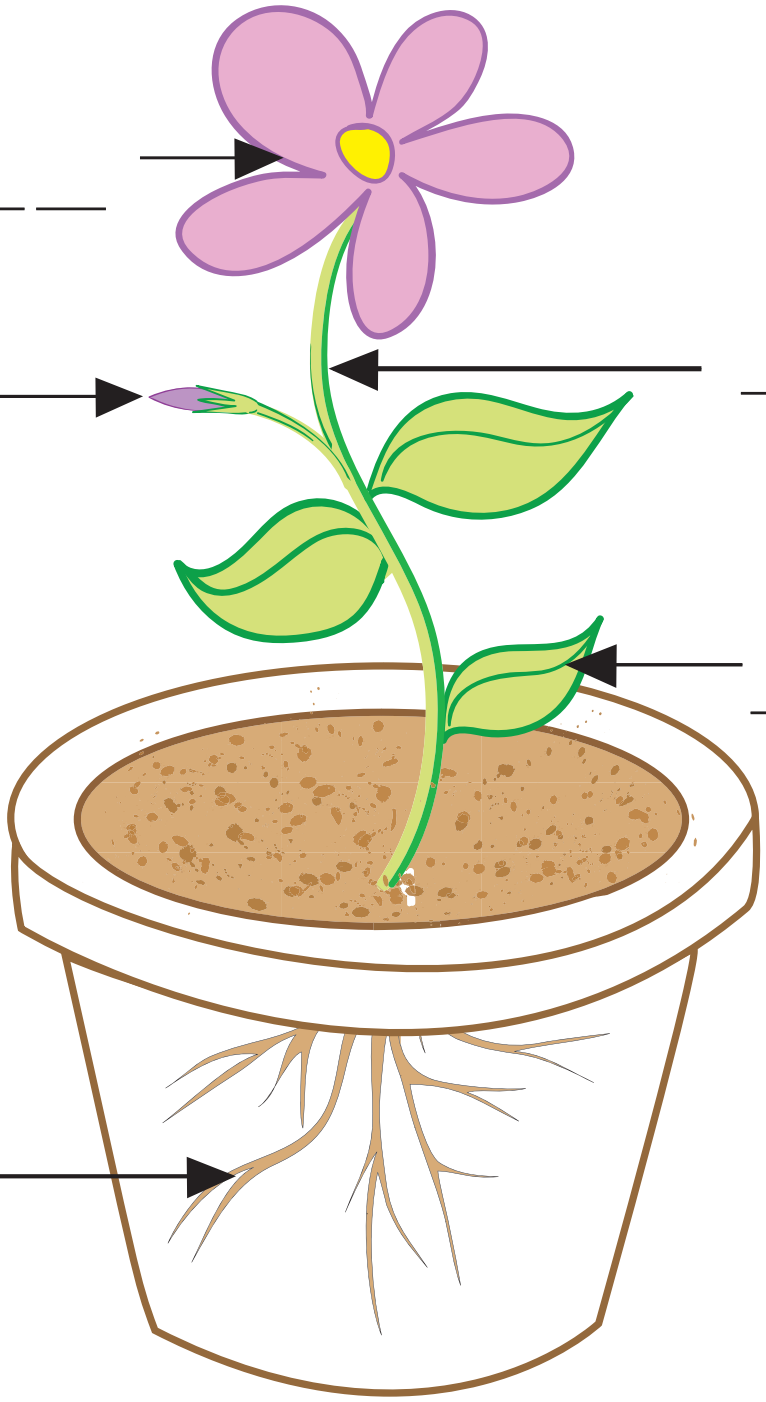
This flower is:

Color: Shape:

This flower is:

Name the different parts of a plant

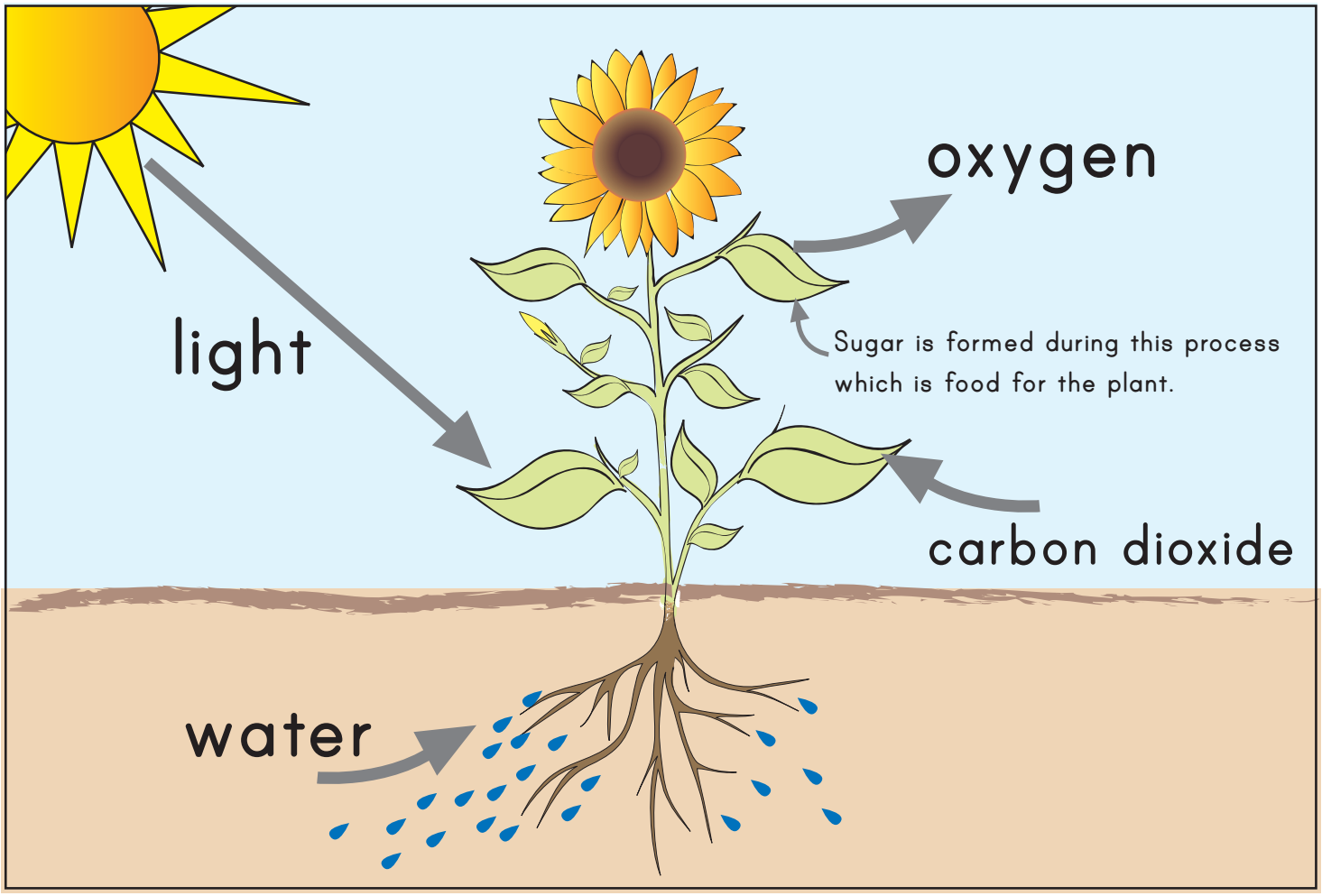
Choose the correct word from the bottom of the page to name each part of the plant.



stem	flower	root	bud	leaf

WHAT IS PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Look at the picture and fill in the blanks using the words at the bottom of the page.



Photosynthesis is a process where plants use _____ from the sun to convert _____ from the air and _____ from the soil into _____ to feed the plant and _____ is given out in the air.

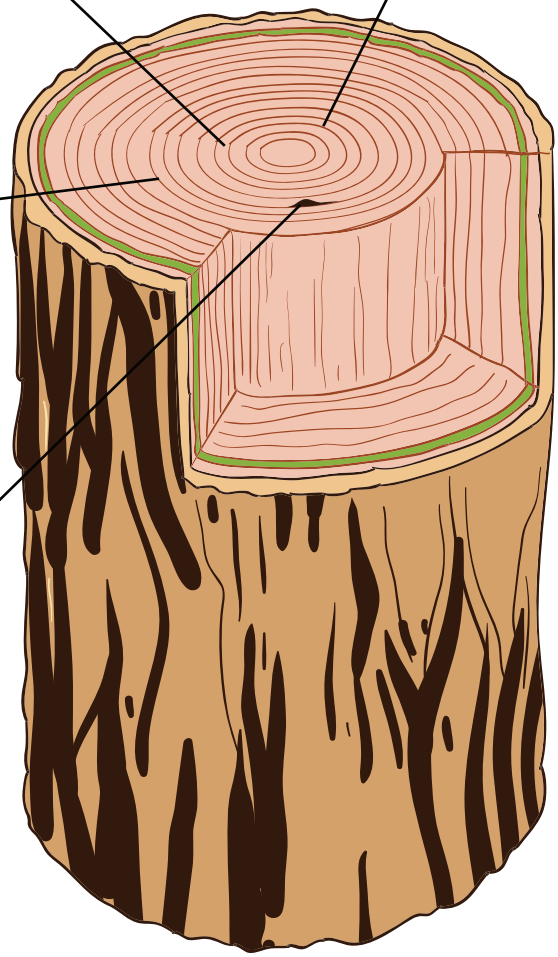
water,	sugar,	carbon dioxide,	light,	oxygen

TREE RINGS

We can find out a lot about a tree by looking at the rings in its trunk. To see the rings, we must look at a cross section of the trunk, just like this!

First year growth
One ring usually stands for one year of the tree's life.

Rainy Season
A wide ring means there was lots of rain that year.



Dry Season
A thin ring means there was no rain that year.

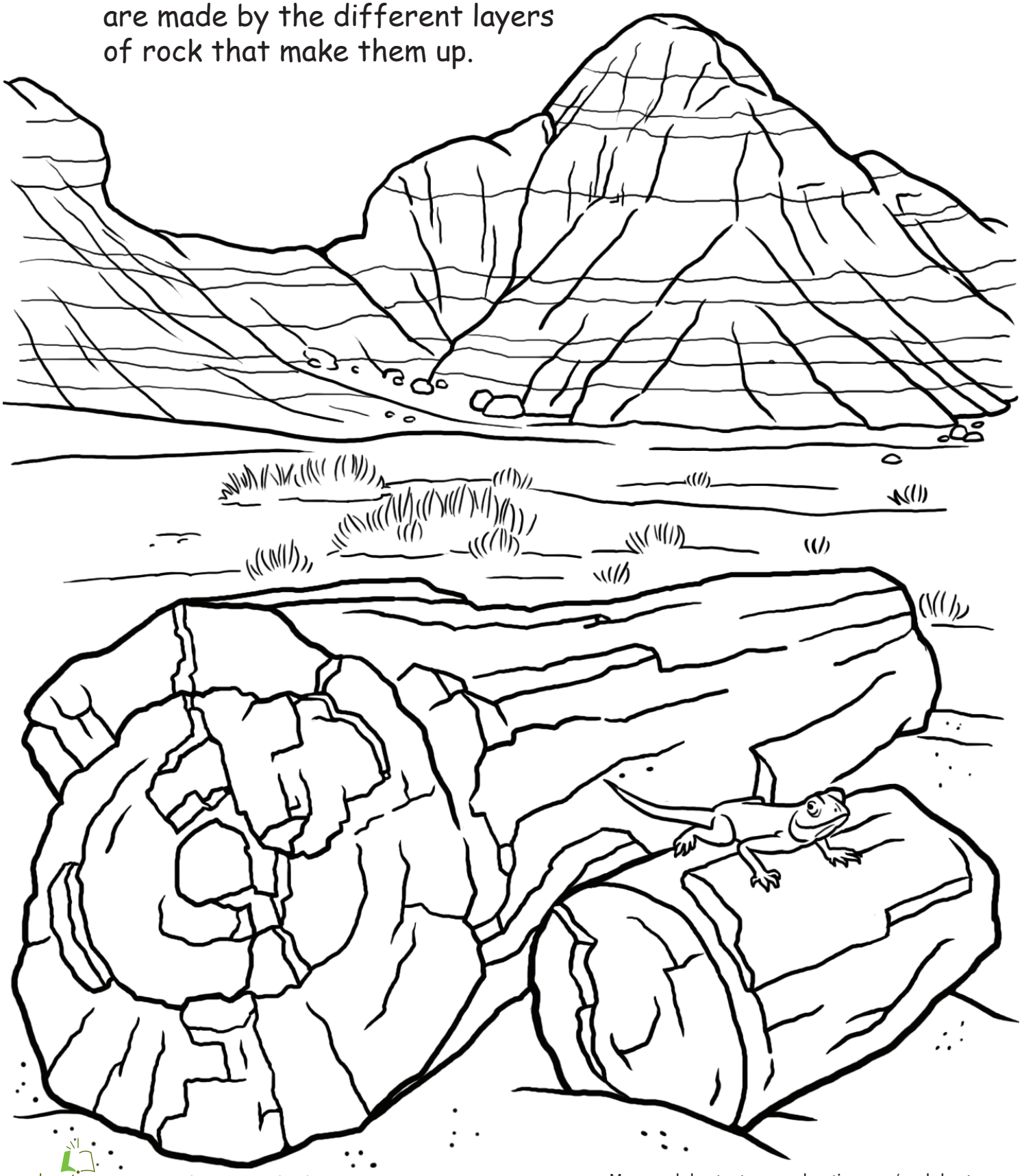
Fire Damage
A dark mark means the tree was damaged that year.

ACTIVITY

On your next outdoor adventure, if you come across a tree stump, take a look at its rings. Can you count how old the tree was? Did it have any damage? Draw a picture of it here:

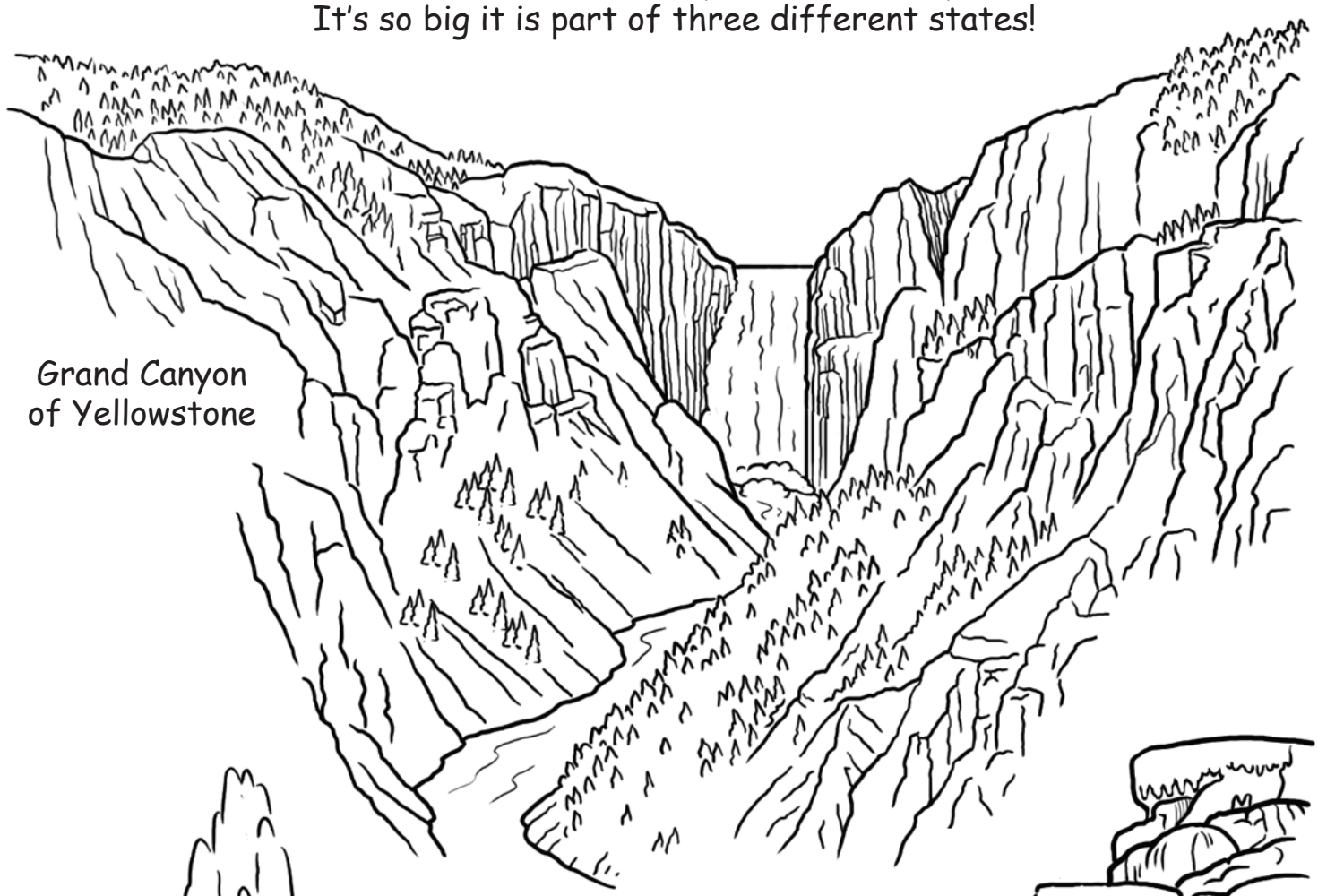
Petrified Forest, Arizona

The brightly-colored stripes in the land at Petrified Forest National Park are made by the different layers of rock that make them up.

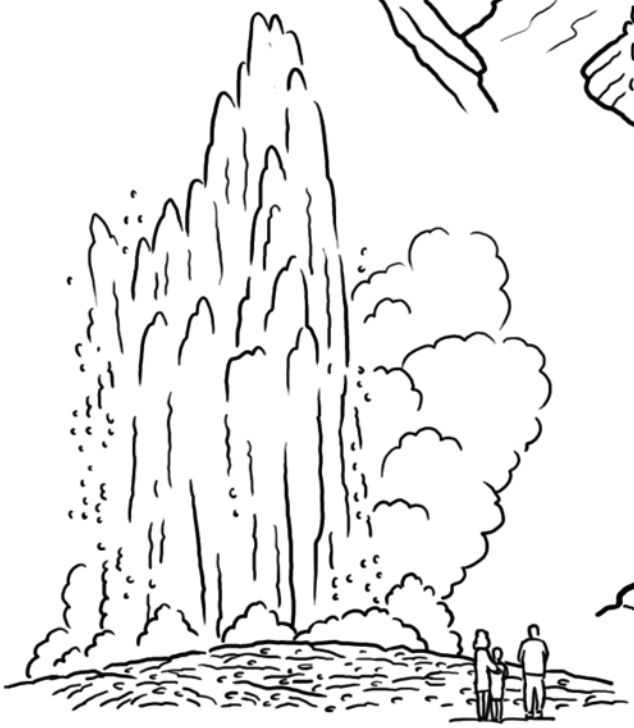


Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming, Montana and Idaho

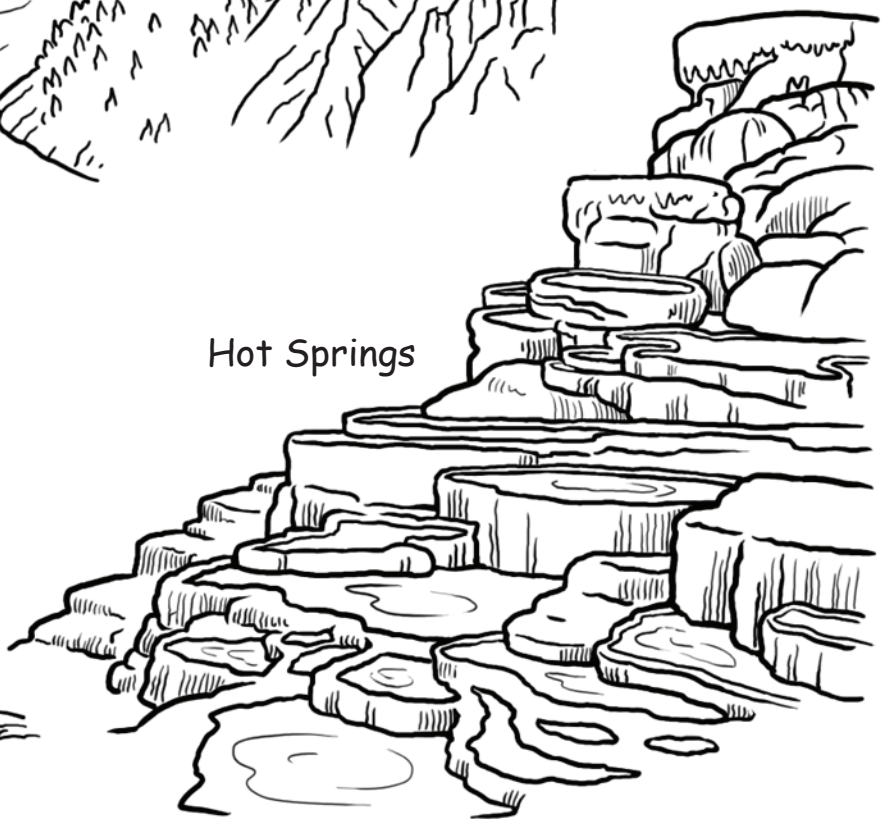
Yellowstone was the very first national park.
It's so big it is part of three different states!



Grand Canyon of Yellowstone



Old Faithful Geyser



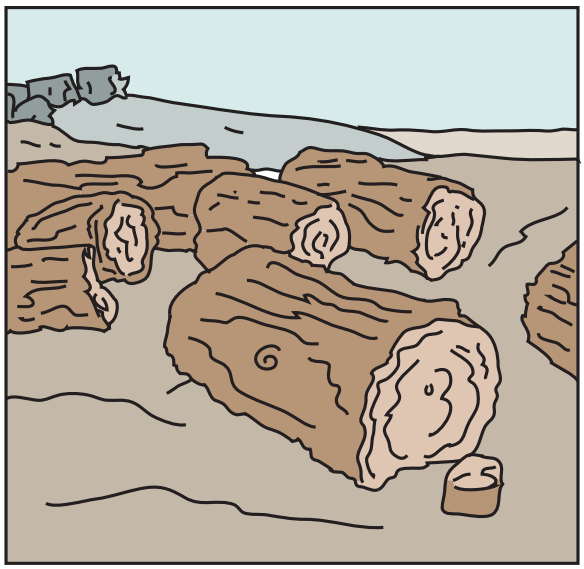
Hot Springs

Grand Canyon, Arizona

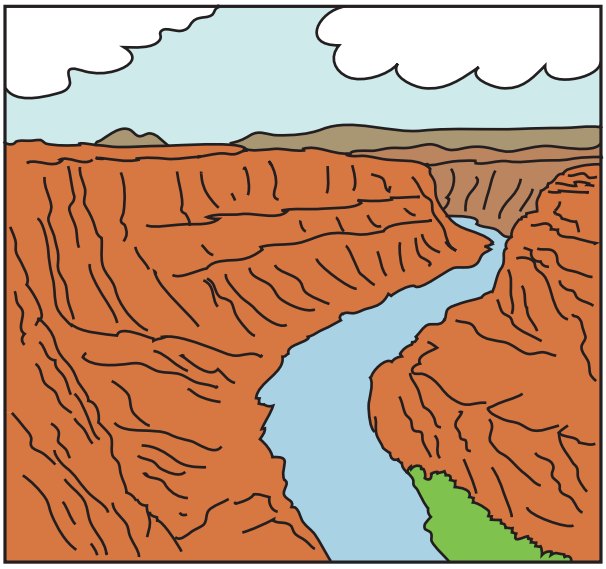
The Grand Canyon was created over the course of two billion years.
It is considered to be one of the wonders of the natural world!

National Parks

National Parks are large areas of protected land. It is important for the United States to keep these parks safe so they can be enjoyed by everyone for a long time.There are almost 400 protected areas in the U.S.! 58 of these protected areas are officially known as national parks.



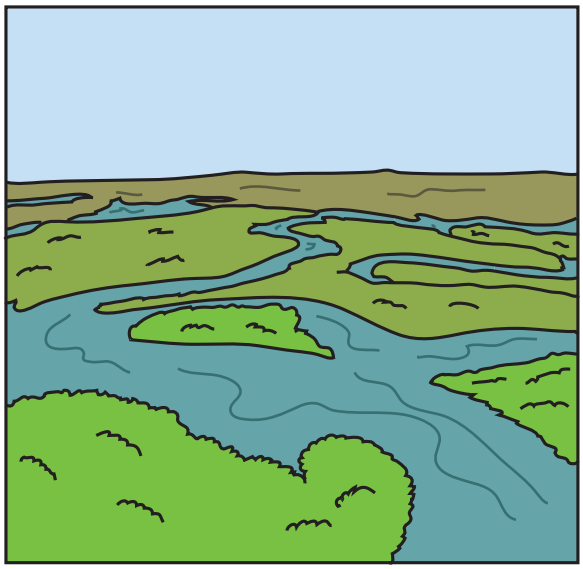
Petrified Forest, Arizona



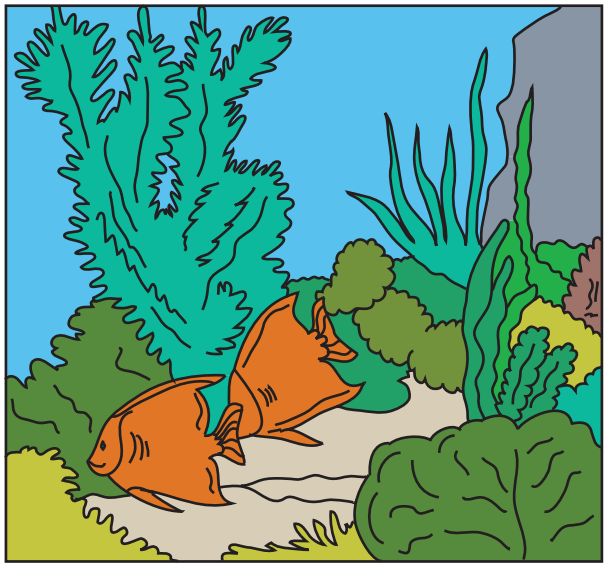
Grand Canyon, Arizona

Many places are protected because they are a special part of nature.

Other national parks exist to protect endangered animals living there.

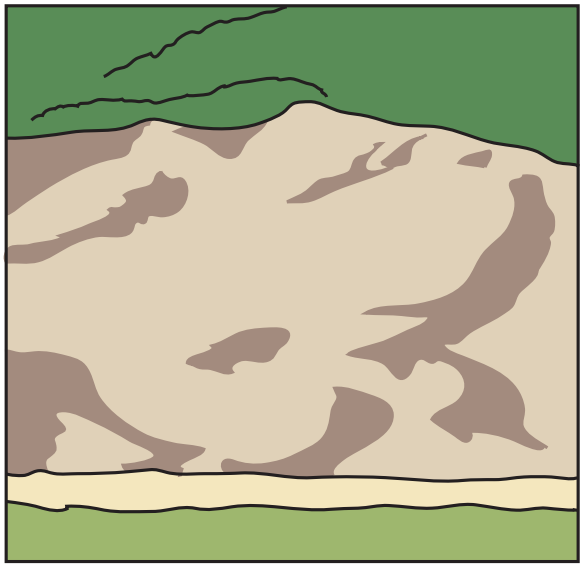


Everglades, Florida



Biscayne, Florida

Other places are protected because they are an important part of our country's history.



Great Sand Dunes, Colorado

Mesa Verde, Colorado

Did You know...

The first national park was Yellowstone, in Wyoming, established in 1872.

The newest national park is the Great Sand Dunes, established in 2004.

The pools in Hot Springs National Park are known to have healing powers.

The wood in the Petrified Forest National Park is 225 million years old.

Redwoods in Redwood National Park are the tallest species of tree.

There are rocks in the Grand Canyon that are 2 billion years old.

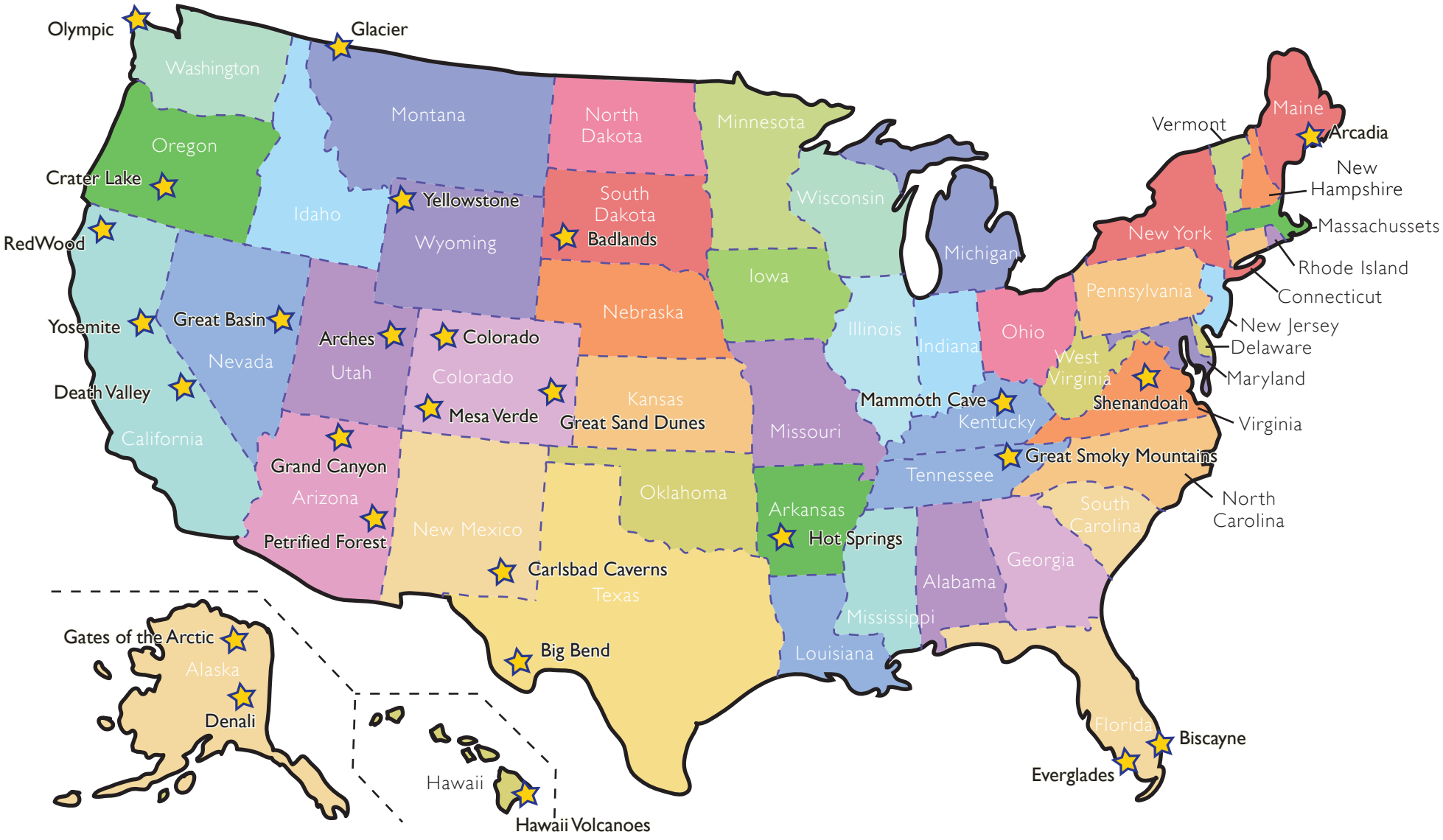
The lava in the Hawaii Volcanoes is 2,150 degrees.

Activity

Do you know any of the National Parks in your state? List the ones you know, and explain why each park is a special part of nature or U.S. history.

National Parks Map

The United States has 58 National Parks. Here are some of the most famous parks.
If you can think of any National Parks that are missing on this map, fill them in!



Weather Forecast

Can you predict the weather? Draw a picture of what the weather looks like today, and how you think the weather will look the rest of the week. Each day, check to see how close your predictions were!

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri

Here are some of the symbols used to write a weather forecast. Can you guess what they mean?

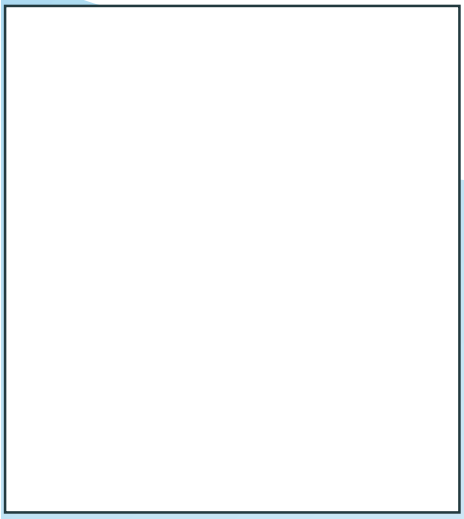
LABEL THE CLOUDS

DIRECTIONS: Label the types of clouds based on the definitions below

CIRRUS - High-altitude feathery thin, white, curly shaped clouds.
CIRROCUMULUS - High-altitude, small, wispy, patchy puffy clouds that form in rows.
CIRROSTRATUS - High-altitude thin whispy clouds. When they cover the sky, they are so thin that it looks like a white sheet.
CUMULUS - Low-altitude fluffy white clouds, typical of hot weather
STRATUS - Low-altitude horizontal, grey, wispy clouds
NIMBOSTRATUS - Low-altitude dark rain clouds

CLOUD GAZING

ENJOY A SUNNY DAY BY LOOKING AT THE CLOUDS!
YOU'LL NEED: A GRASSY FIELD OR MEADOW, A BLANKET TO LAY ON,
AND A PARTNER TO CLOUD-GAZE WITH! BE SURE TO BRING A PENCIL
AND DRAW THE FUNNY SHAPES YOU SEE IN THE CLOUDS.

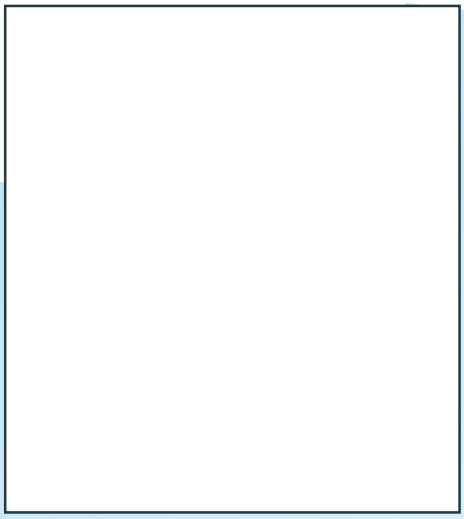


THIS CLOUD IS A

_____

IT LOOKS LIKE A

_____ !

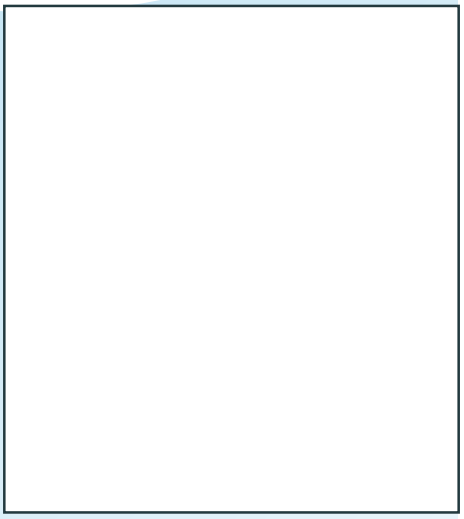


THIS CLOUD IS A

_____

IT LOOKS LIKE A

_____ !



THIS CLOUD IS A

_____

IT LOOKS LIKE A

_____ !

CIRRUS: HIGH UP, FEATHERY, THIN, WHITE, CURLY SHAPED

CIRROCUMULUS: HIGH UP, SMALL, WISPY, PATCHY, PUFFY, IN ROWS

CIRROSTRATUS: HIGH UP THIN, WISPY, LIKE WHITE SHEETS

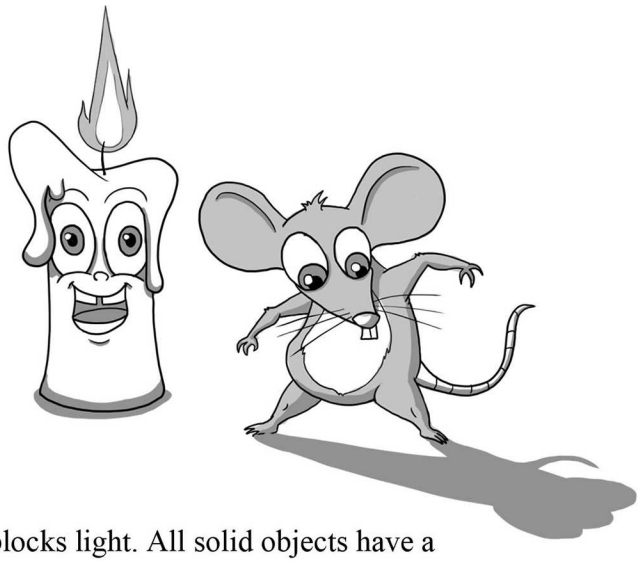
CUMULUS: LOW, FLUFFY, WHITE, TYPICAL OF HOT WEATHER

STRATUS: LOW, HORIZONTAL, GREY, WISPY

NIMBOSTRATUS: LOW, DARK, RAIN CLOUDS

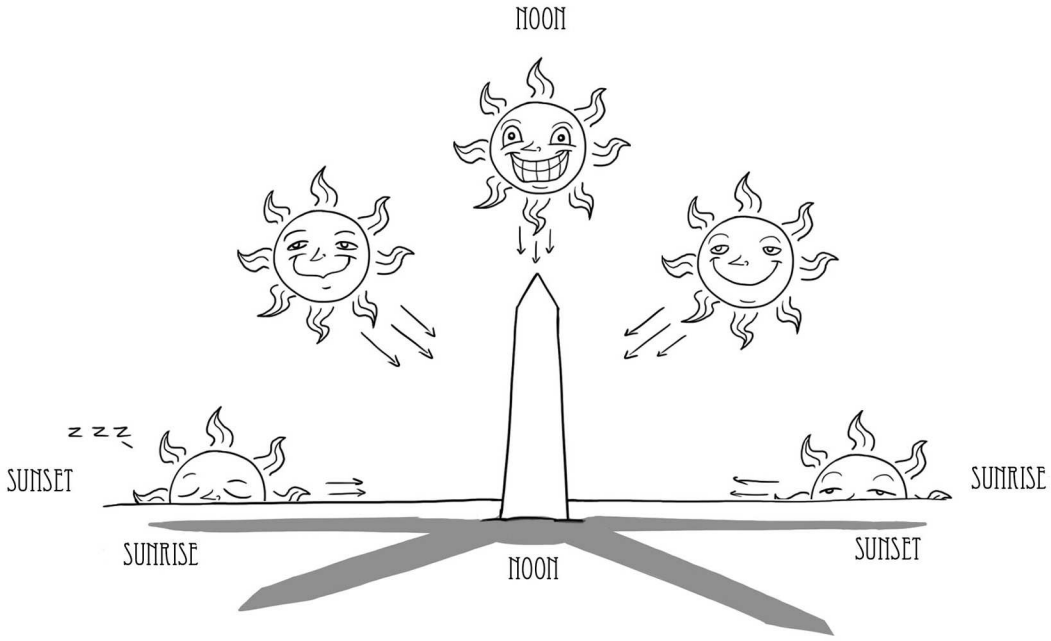
SHADOWS

Hi everyone! My name is Dill – short for Can Dill. I'm here to teach you about shadows.



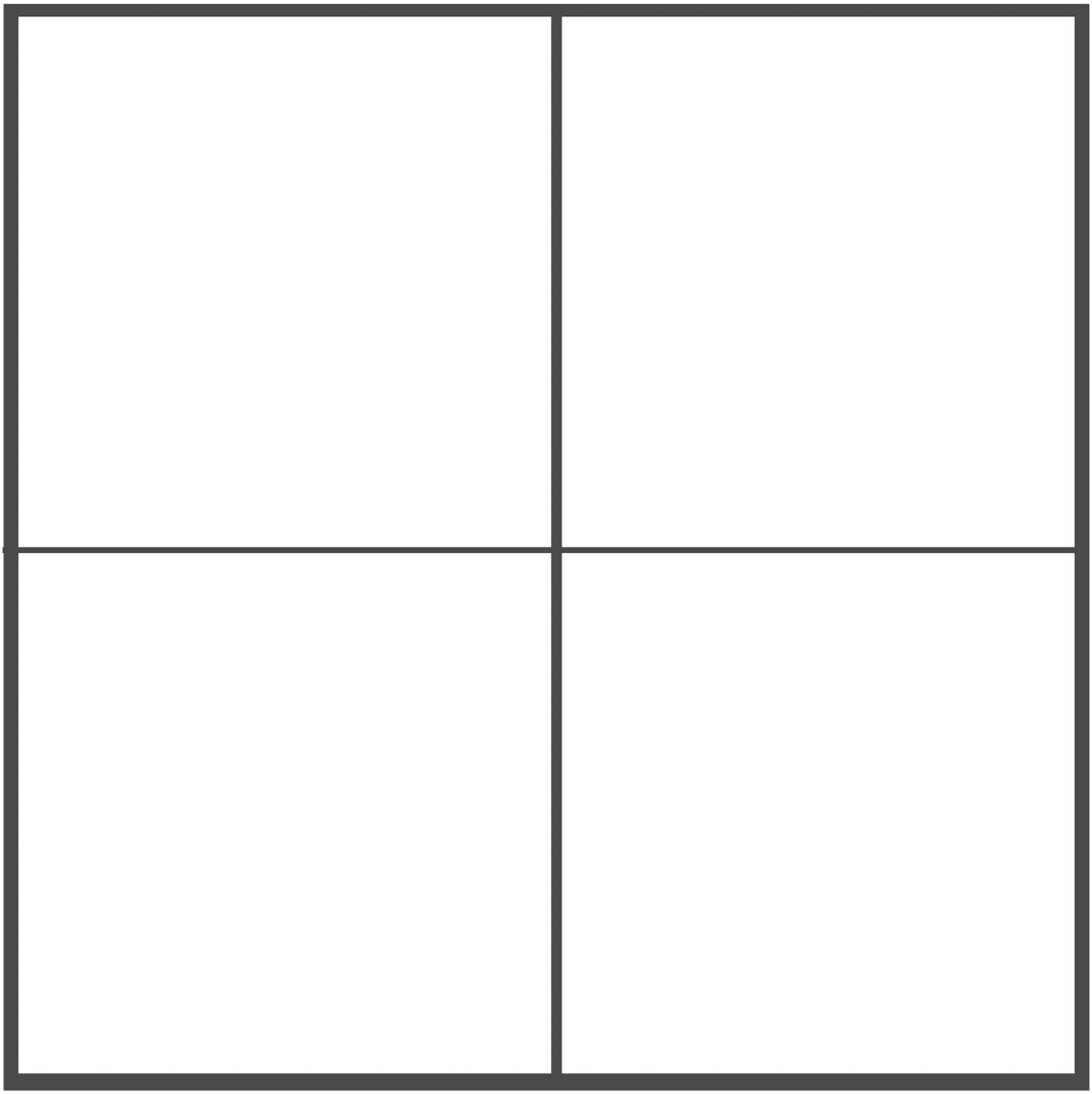
A shadow is created when an object blocks light. All solid objects have a shadow. Take a look at my friend here. The shadow on the ground is created by the light of my flame being blocked by the mouse's shape.

When you're outside, the sun casts shadows everywhere. Shadows appear in different positions based on the time of day.



On a sunny day, place an object outdoors. Check on it every two hours. Has the shadow moved? Draw a picture of the object and its shadow in the boxes below each time you check on it.

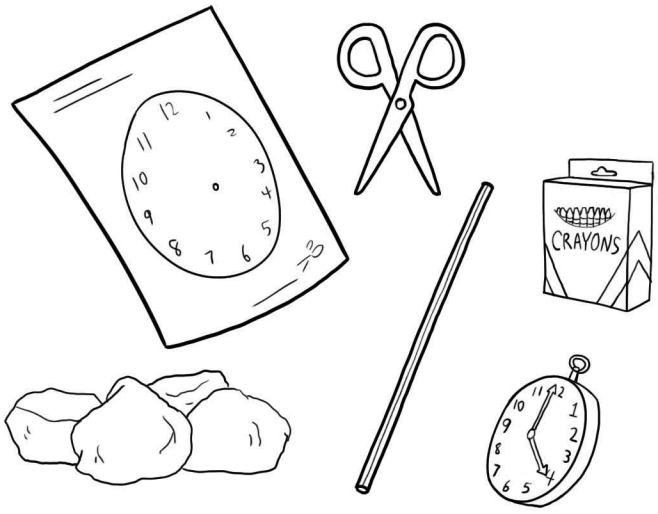
Make sure to draw the object from the same position!



Where do you think the shadow will be tomorrow at 10 a.m.?

Make Your Own Sundial

Remember: Never look directly at the sun.

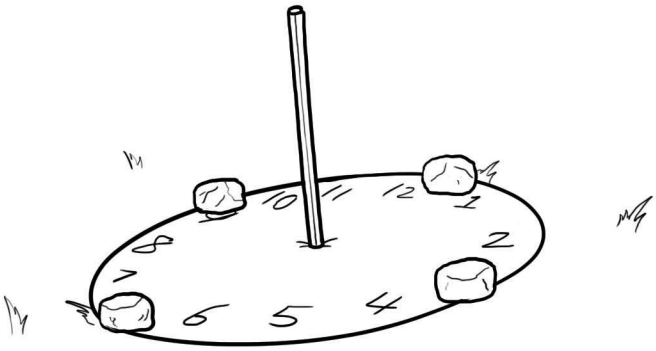


What You Need:

1) The second page
2) Safety scissors
3) 4 rocks
4) A straw or coffee stirrer
5) A clock
6) Crayons

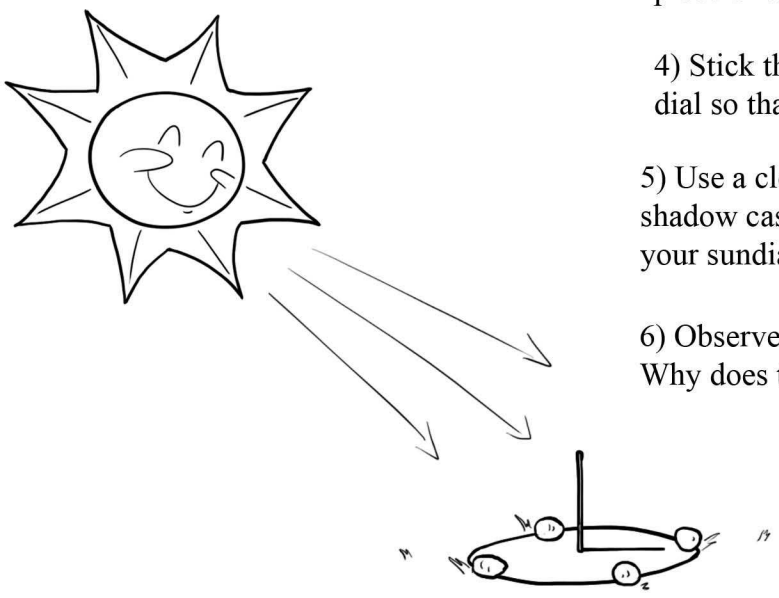
1) Cut out the sundial on the second page.

2) Decorate your sundial, filling in the circles with numbers so that it looks like a clock. Feel free to use more then just crayons to decorate with!



3) Take everything outside and put your sundial on the ground. Use the rocks to hold down the sundial and stop the wind from blowing it away. You may want to glue it to a piece of cardboard.

4) Stick the straw or coffee stirrer into the center of the sundial so that it goes into the ground.



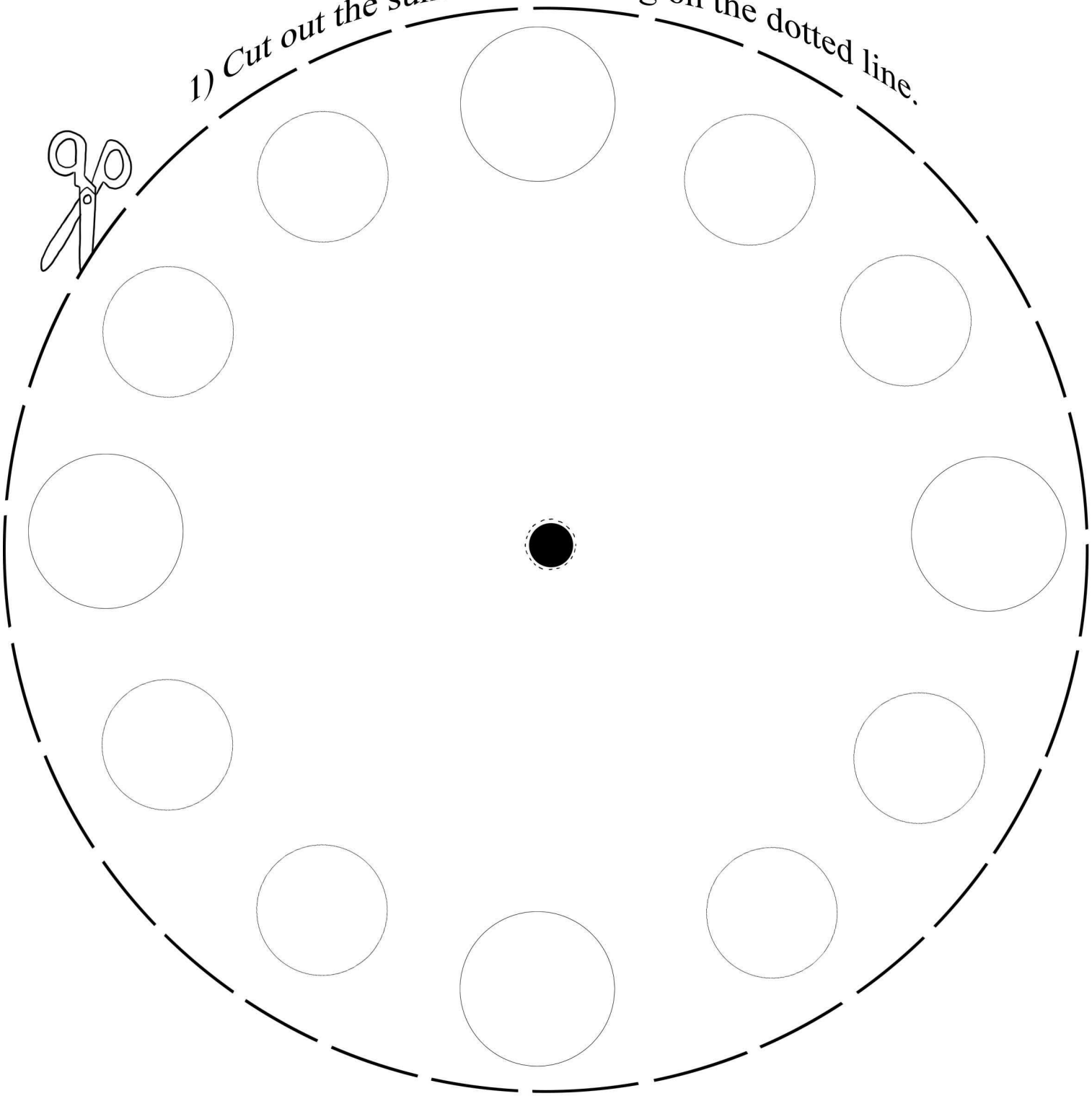
5) Use a clock to see what time it is. Turn you sundial so that the shadow cast by the straw points to the correct hour on your sundial.

6) Observe how the shadow moves like the hands on a clock. Why does the shadow move?

Sundial

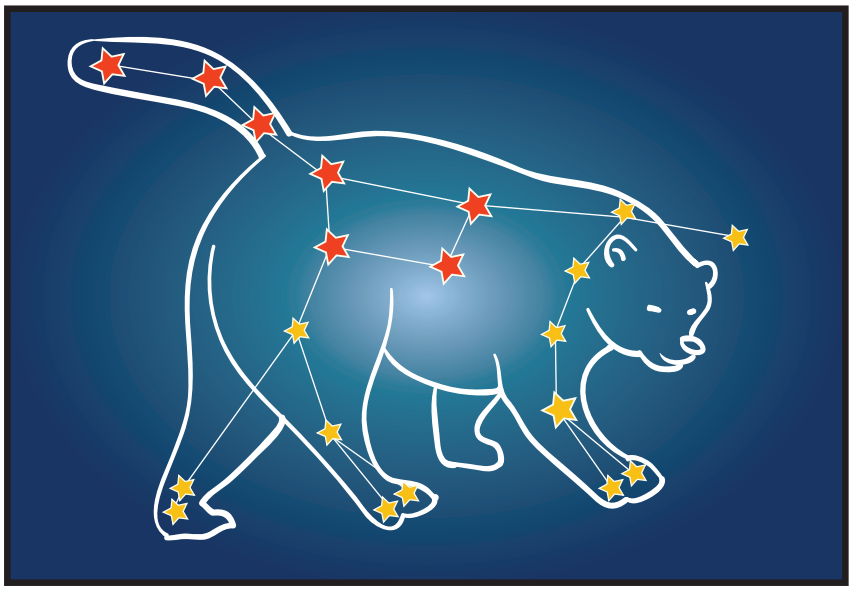
If you need help cutting, ask a grown-up for help.

1) Cut out the sundial by cutting on the dotted line.



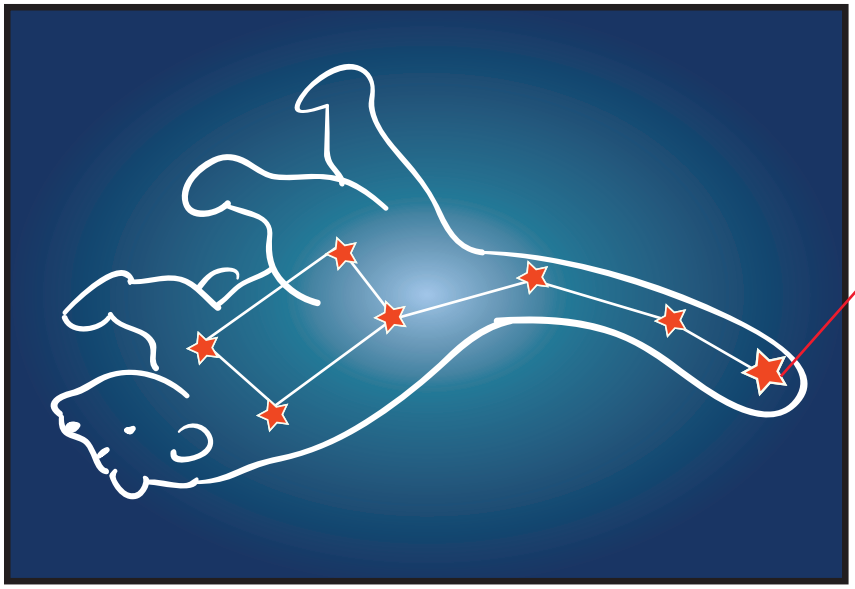
2) Cut out the small black hole in the center of the sundial.
3) Use your crayons to fill in the 12 other circles with numbers like on a clock.
4) Decorate your sundial! Have fun and use your favorite colors!

STAR GAZING



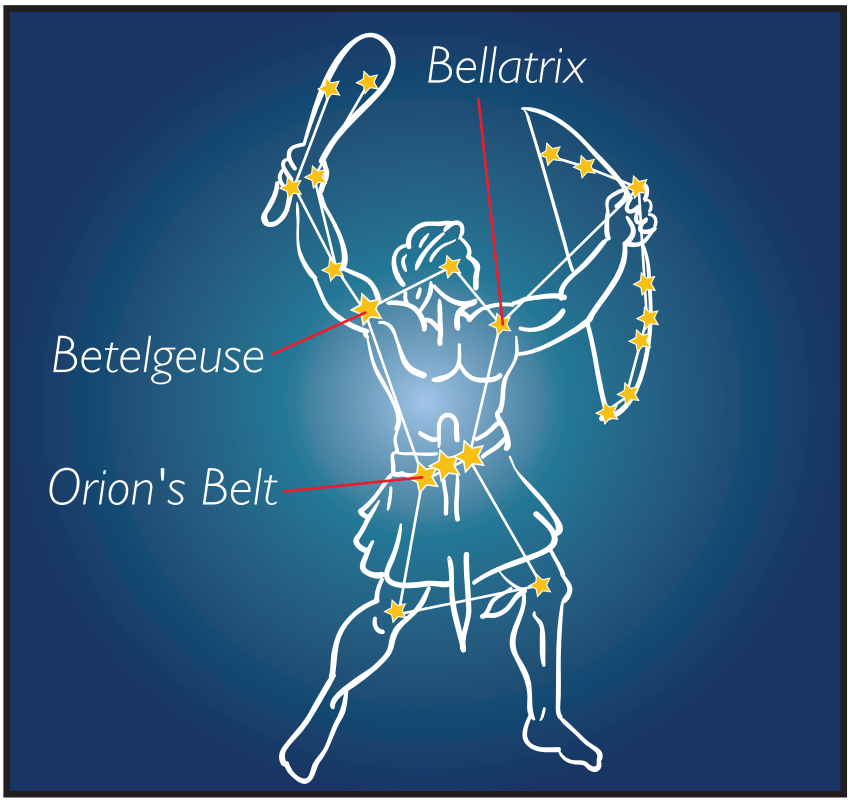
Ursa Major (big bear)

A woman named Callisto was turned into a bear by an angry goddess, Hera, and was put up in the sky, where she still lives today. The orange stars are known as the Big Dipper.



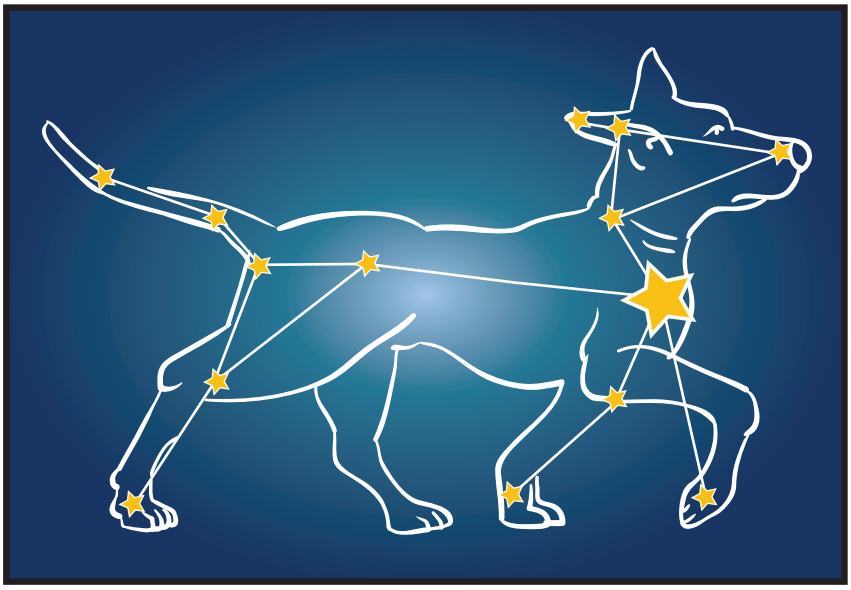
Ursa Minor (little bear)

The little bear is Arcas, Callisto's son. He was also turned into a bear and put up in the sky. The orange stars are known as the little Dipper.
Polaris (the north star) is the tail of the little dipper, an important star that hunters and travelers can use as a compass to find north.



Orion

Orion was a hunter in ancient Greek mythology. After he was killed by a scorpion, the gods put him up in the sky. Orion's Belt - The three brightest stars in the Orion constellation.



Sirius (the dog star)

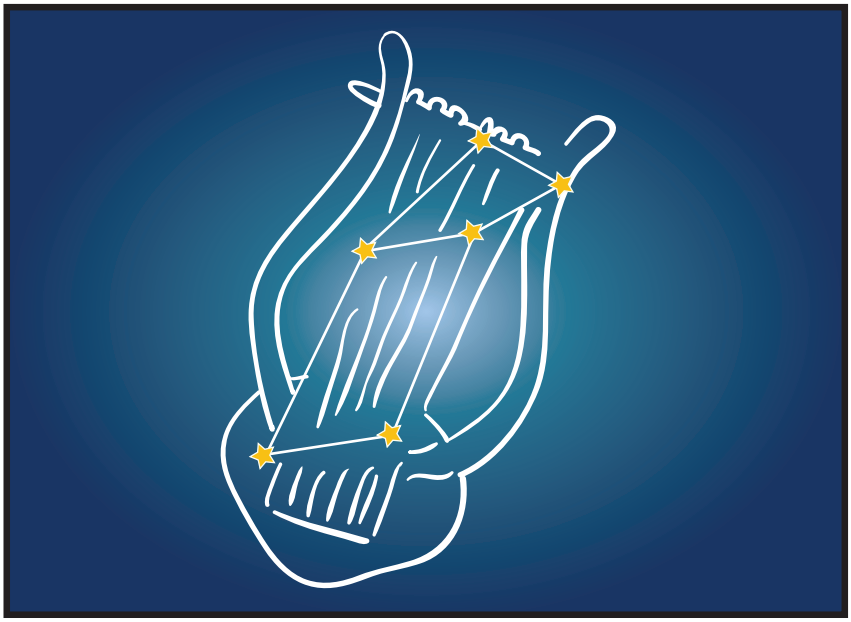
Orion's hunting dog Sirius is the brightest star in the sky!

Cassiopeia

Cassiopeia was a very vain, self-centered queen. The gods hung her upside-down in the sky as punishment.

Cepheus

Cepheus, the king, was Cassiopeia's husband.



Lyra/Lyre

The lyra was a stringed instrument that Orpheus used to charm wild animals. When he died, the lyra was placed in the sky to honor him.

Aquila

Aquila was an eagle of the gods. He did many things for the gods, such as carry Zeus' thunderbolts.

Great job!

_____

is an Education.com writing superstar