



To complete this activity, you will need:

- Our planisphere/star wheel template, printed on to card
- Scissors or crafting knife
- Sticky tape or glue

Safety advice



Take care when using the scissors.

Instructions – Making the Star Wheel/Planisphere

1. Print off the planisphere template either directly on to card, or print it on paper and then glue the paper to a piece of card.
2. Carefully cut out the star wheel holder on page 1 of the template. Make sure you remove the oval shape from the centre (white region).
3. Fold the template back along the dashed lines at each side and along the bottom.
4. Use glue or sticky tape to secure the folded flaps back. Make sure to leave a pocket in the back that you can slide the star chart into..
5. Cut around the star chart on page 2 of the template.
6. Slide the star chart into the grey template frame.

Instructions – Using the Star Wheel

1. Spin the star chart circle until you see the current month at the top of the star wheel.
2. Rotate the inside wheel around so that the today's date lines up with the arrow that matches the current time.
3. The star wheel will then show you what stars and constellations are visible now.
4. This will help you pick out the constellations which you can see in the night sky.
5. You can rotate the star wheel to another time or date to help you plan future observations of the night sky.



Important notes:

This planisphere is for the northern hemisphere, specifically centred on the UK. If you live at a different latitude, the sky you see will be different. You should always use a star wheel that has been made for your location.

You will find Polaris (the north star) is at the centre of this star chart. Polaris is one of the most important stars to recognise because it will help you navigate the night sky. Two stars in Ursa Major (the Great Bear) point towards Polaris.