

# Starry Night

## Picture This

Make a tool to seek and find your constellations in the dark sky.

### What to do



1. Decorate a craft tube using the markers and star stickers.



2. Take a sheet of black construction paper, place it over one end of the craft tube and fold the paper over the tube using a rubber band to hold in place.



3. Cut out a constellation and glue it onto the top of the covered end of the craft tube. Using the tack, carefully poke a hole through the black dots. Test your new instrument looking in the night sky.

### Did You Know?

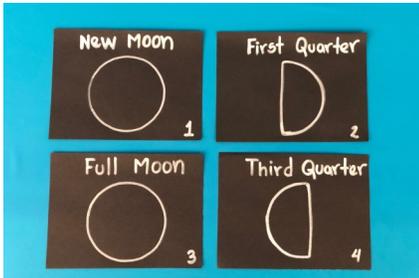
People rely on simplified models to better understand complex systems or actions. Children need lots of concrete examples to understand how their world works around them. The real lesson in this activity is not looking for constellations but giving children a tool to help them understand an important element of the night sky: Stars. Look for more models in your surroundings to explain larger, more complex concepts to your child: maps, globes, toy cars, dolls, animal figures, etc.

# Sands of Time

## Picture This

Discover the lunar cycle by recreating moon phases.

### What to do



1. Take 4 rectangles of black construction paper and trace 4 moon phases like the example (you can use the templates).



2. Spread glue inside each drawing of the moon and sprinkle sand on top.



3. After your work has dried, staple the construction paper lunar moon phases together to make your lunar phase flip book starting with New Moon.

### Did You Know?

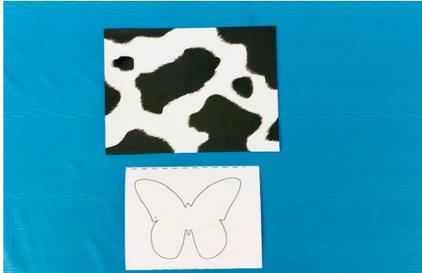
As the moon orbits, or circles, the Earth the moon phases change. There are 8 major phases in the lunar cycle: New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter, Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Third Quarter and Waning Crescent. People have long used the moon to mark seasons as well as days in the month; a lunar cycle is close to 30 days. (The word "month" actually comes from the word "moon"). Point out the moon in the sky with your child and discuss the changes s/he observes over a few nights.

# Camouflage Challenge

## Picture This

Discover how camouflage increases an animal's chance of survival.

### What to do



1. Choose a piece of patterned paper and a copy of a butterfly.



2. Color in the butterfly's wings so that it blends in, or camouflages with your patterned paper. Cut out the butterfly.



3. Glue the butterfly somewhere on your patterned paper and challenge a friend to find the butterfly on your patterned paper.

### Did You Know?

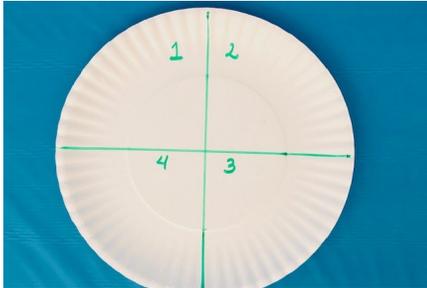
Camouflage is a method that allows animals to go unnoticed by blending with the environment or by looking like something else. Camouflage is used by both predator and prey in Nature. Predators use it to sneak up on their dinner. Prey use their camouflage to remain hidden from predators or to disguise themselves as something very yucky tasting. Point out any animal camouflage with your child when outside (stick bugs on branches, green frogs in grass, dark cats hiding in shadows).

# Life Cycle Wheel

## Picture This

Creating a colorful diagram to represent the different stages in the life cycle of butterflies.

### What to do



1. Divide a paper plate into four sections by folding it into quarters and tracing the lines. Label each section with numbers 1 through 4.



2. Glue the bean onto a leaf (egg stage) in section #1 of the plate. Glue a piece of green pasta in section #2 (caterpillar stage) glue a cotton ball in section #3 (chrysalis stage).



3. Make a butterfly by twisting the pipe cleaner around a square of tissue paper. To represent the butterfly stage, and glue the butterfly in section #4 of the paper plate.

### Did You Know?

Butterflies and moths go through a life cycle known as complete metamorphosis. Explain to your child that a metamorphosis is when a creature goes through very large changes like the caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Look for opportunities in pointing out these changes in creatures with your child like a tadpole turning into a frog, larvae turning into flies and wasps. Talk about all of the changes your child has experienced from birth until now and the next big changes they can look forward to.

# Arm Tree

## Picture This

Create an arm tree and learn about how its different parts work together for a purpose.

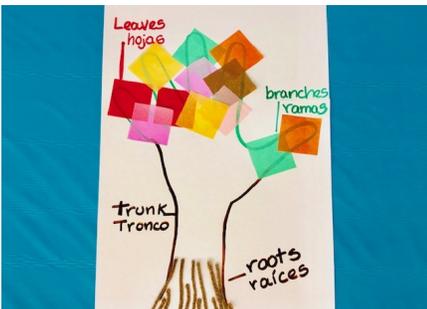
### What to do



1. Trace your arm and hand on a piece of paper. Your arm will be the trunk of the tree and your hand will be the branches.



2. Glue small pieces of yarn to the bottom of the trunk to make the roots and glue paper squares to the branches to make the leaves.



3. Label the roots, trunk, branches and leaves on your tree.

### Did You Know?

Trees produce fresh oxygen, food, fuel and building materials. The next time you are outside with your child point out the different parts of trees: trunk, branches, leaves and maybe you can even see a few roots above ground! Discuss how important trees are to the people and animals around them. They are used as homes by birds, squirrels and insects. They give shade to people and animals. Explain how a tree is a living thing that grew from a small sapling just like how people grow.