

CONSTELLATION CONFUSION: Reference Chart

Constellations are groups of stars that look like recognizable objects. It's difficult to see all the fainter stars that make up the shape, unless you are out of the city under clear dark skies. They were named long ago by the first astronomers, and are still used today to divide the night sky into manageable areas.

Twenty of the largest or most prominent constellations are shown in the diagram. All are drawn to their approximate relative size, but their orientations are arbitrary ... they won't always be turned the way you see them here. This is one of the most difficult things about astronomy ... you have to learn how to rotate things in your "mind's eye" in order to recognize them. *Constellation Confusion* is an exercise that will help you develop this skill.

Designed for grades 6-12

Answer key also available at: www.pasaz.org

