

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Star Stories

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward adults interested in learning about the connection between the names of American spacecraft and objects in space.

During its time of service, Intrepid was involved in the Space Race as a recovery vessel for two early space missions as the United States moved towards sending astronauts to the Moon. The names of these early space missions came from objects in space inspired by mythology.

Participants will understand that people long ago created stories inspired by constellations and determine how a constellation story inspired the name of an early space mission.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through an investigation of the origin of the names of these early space missions. The lesson culminates with participants exploring the constellations in the night sky using a stargazing app on a mobile device and researching those constellations further.

Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

Materials

- [Star Stories Slideshow](#)
- **Stargazing app on mobile device (ex. Star Chart, Skyview Lite, SkySafari, or Star Walk 2)**

Discussion

Questions

Which constellations can you identify in the night sky?

Why might so many cultures have stories related to constellations?

Lesson

1. Introductory Activity

- Ask Participants:
 - **What do you know about spacecraft?**
 - **What are some tasks astronauts do on their missions?**
- Discuss the responses with the group.

2. Core Activity

- Share [video](#) of a museum educator discussing the Gemini Space capsule and discuss constellations and how the Gemini Constellation got its name.
 - **Why would the Gemini mission be named after a constellation of twins?**
 - **What is a constellation?**
- Discuss constellations. Constellations are names given to groups of stars that create recognizable shape or picture. Cultures all over the world looked into the night sky and created stories with constellations as characters.
- Share [video](#) of a museum educator discussing different constellation stories. When the educator in the video asks questions, the facilitator can pause the video to collect participant responses.
- Encourage participants to use a stargazing app such as Star Chart, Skyview Lite, SkySafari, or Star Walk 2 to investigate constellations visible in the night sky and the stories related to the,
 - **What constellation did you choose to research? What stories are connected to that constellation? If more than one culture has a version of that constellation, how are the stories similar or different?**

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own. Participants can respond to questions about the [video](#) and research different constellations stories of

constellations visible in the night sky. Have participants share their constellation stories using flipgrid using Padlet or Google Doc.

Extension Activities

To deepen participant engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities :

Share Constellation Stories

Have participants share the stories they researched with each other and discuss what the constellation stories have in common.

Additional Resources/ References

More information on Intrepid's connection to early space travel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYmYbJqVRqQ>

Information on Project Mercury:

<https://youtu.be/XAufxq23nn8>

The Museum is deeply grateful to the funders that make our education programs possible:



*This project was made possible in part by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Award ID:
CAGML-247144-OMLS-20*