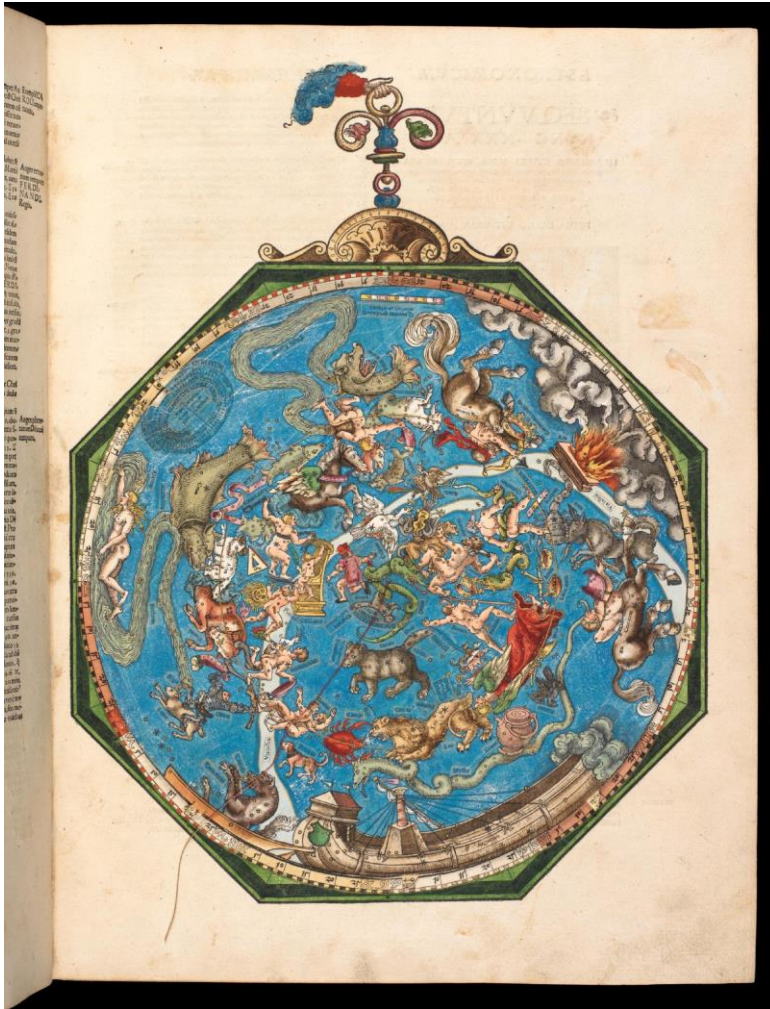


Constellation Chart

This activity has been designed as a starting point for looking, talking and doing together. The **Look** and **Think** activities should take 5 -10 minutes.

The **Do** activities might take longer depending on the task and how creative you are feeling!



Look

Look carefully at this picture.

Part of the page can move - can you see where? How could you make it move?

Find out how in our Do activity.



Think

This is a map of the stars in the sky.

Stars that are grouped together are called constellations.

If you could make your own constellation, what animal would it be and why?



Do

This page moves around to show what it looks like when stars are moving around the Earth. In reality, it is the Earth that is spinning around – not the stars!

Follow the step by step guide on the next page to make one. You can also have a look at the night sky above using a free apps such as [Stellarium](#) or [Star Walk 2](#).

Astronomicum Caesareum

(Caesar's Astronomy)

Written and designed by Peter Apian

1540.1917

Constellation Chart

People have always looked at the night sky and told stories about the stars. Sometimes groups of stars reminded them of animals, people or other things. The astronomer who made this book has drawn the people and animals to show us where the stars are. He hoped they would help you to find your way around the night sky.

This book, *Astronomicum Caesareum* (the Emperor's Astronomy), was published in 1540. It is written and designed by Peter Apian, a professor in astronomy and mathematics at the University of Ingolstadt. While many other books were used by students at European universities, this book was aimed at people who were not experts but wanted to know more about the how the sun and moon, planets and stars moved around the fixed earth (which is what people believed then).

It is a very large book with over 30 movable wheel charts, sometimes also known as volvelles or Apian Wheels. By turning the different paper dials on the page, the reader can calculate the position (the latitude and longitude) of the different planets in the sky. There are also volvelles for calculating the date of Easter as well as critical days of an illness. The pages were printed with ink and the colour was added by hand, so almost every copy is unique.

This illustration is borrowed from two celestial maps produced by Albrecht Dürer in 1515 of the southern and northern hemispheres. In this star map, Peter Apian has combined the two. When you look at it you may not recognise all the constellations, as some of them are not visible here in England.

Have a look at some of the other pages from [a copy kept at the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#).



You will need:

- Pencil
- Scissors
- String or split pin
- Colouring pencils or pens
- Something to draw a circle around
- Paper or card

1. Draw a circle onto some paper or card.
2. Draw your stars and constellations on. We mixed real ones we can see at night and made some up!
3. Colour them in and cut out your circle.
4. Make a hole in the middle of your circle and another piece of paper – carefully! Cut a piece of string or use a split pin to tie the two together.
5. Decorate the back paper if you like – and spin!