

# StarLab Planetarium

Constellation & Myth Creations

*Lesson Plan*

Adapted from Gary D. Kratzer

Astronomy & More, [www.starlab.com](http://www.starlab.com)

<b>Title:</b>	Constellation Myth Writing
<b>Brief Overview:</b>	In this lesson, students will write an original myth representing a constellation of their own creation.
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will research a Greek Myth and the associated constellation.</li><li>• Students will examine the ways that ancient cultures identified, named, and explained the presence of constellations.</li><li>• Students will create a 3D model to represent their constellation.</li><li>• Students will understand the relationship constellations and story telling.</li><li>• Students will gain an understanding of the defining characteristics of a myth.</li><li>• Students will design an imaginary constellation and write a myth to explain the origin and nature of that constellation.</li></ul>
<b>Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this lesson is for students to understand the storytelling component of myth writing and create their own original myth.
<b>MA DOE Science and Technology/ Engineering Learning Standards</b>	Space Science  12. Recognize that the universe contains many billions of galaxies, and that each galaxy contains many billions of stars.  <i>Taken From:</i> <a href="http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/scitech/1006.doc">http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/scitech/1006.doc</a>
<b>Framing the Learning</b>	These are the steps in the completion of this activity. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remind the students of ALL the rules concerning entering and exiting the StarLab Planetarium.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Take off your shoes before entering the StarLab.</li><li>b. Don't touch or sit on the walls of the StarLab.</li><li>c. Walk to a carpet square and remain seated.</li><li>d. Keep your hands to yourself.</li><li>e. Listen to the teacher, absolutely no talking.</li></ol></li><li>2. Allow the students 4-5 minutes for their eyes to adjust.</li><li>3. Put on the Starfield Cylinder.</li><li>4. Have the students examine the star and find a pattern in the starfield that identifies an object that is relevant to their life. Acknowledge to them that it might be a representation of a sport, hobby, pet or any other object.</li><li>5. Once the students have found a series of stars that represent an object, have them sketch the stars on plain paper and show the representative figure. They have now identified their own personal constellation and should apply an appropriate name.</li><li>6. Ask students to share their constellations, the location and the</li></ol>

	<p>name. Let them know that we will use these constellations when they write their original myth. Handouts on this assignment will be given once they return to the classroom.</p> <p>7. Turn the sidelights up and have students carefully exit the StarLab.</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p><i>The following will provide evidence of understanding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Constellation Myth Writing Project (see below)</li></ul>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONSTELLATION MYTH WRITING PROJECT

Original Myth Writing & Constellation Naming

Mrs. Farrell & Mr.Koldys

## Writing A Myth

In this assignment you will be writing an original myth for the constellation that you discovered while visiting the StarLab. Your myth should include a character, plot, conflict, setting and resolution. Your myth should explain why your constellation was placed in the sky for all to see for eternity. This project should be at least one page typed (12 point font, double spaced).

## Original Constellation

A. Sketch the stars and outline to show the image you discovered.

B. Name the constellation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Six Primary Uses For Myths

1. To explain a natural phenomena or an occurrence.
  - a. Why penguins can't fly
  - b. Why trees grow vertically instead of horizontally
2. To explain the creation of the world.
  - a. How the sun came into being
  - b. Why the moon appears full once a month
3. To teach people moral lessons.
  - a. Why not to be jealous
  - b. Why not to steal
4. To explain some historical event.
  - a. The story of a great warrior
  - b. Why the Chinese built the Great Wall of China
5. To explain some ancient religious practice.
  - a. Why people are considered saints
  - b. Why certain animals are considered sacred
6. To reveal the common hopes and fears of mankind.
  - a. Fear of dying
  - b. Desire to be a winner at something

### **Seven Characteristics of A Myth**

1. Myths are early man's desire to explain the universe.
  - a. Apollo, the son of Zeus, drove the chariot of the sun across the sky
2. Many gods and goddesses are present in myths.
3. The gods, goddesses, and heroes are super human in nature.
  - a. Atlas bore the weight of the world and heavens on his shoulders
4. Human emotions are experienced by the gods.
  - a. Hera was jealous.
  - b. Demeter mourned the loss of her daughter when she was abducted.
5. Magic is often present in myths.
  - a. Athena came full grown out of the forehead of Zeus
6. Gods sometimes appear in disguised form.
  - a. Zeus came to Hera as a poor bird caught in a storm.
  - b. Athena appeared as an old woman and challenged Arachne to a weaving contest.
7. A metamorphosis may occur
  - a. Smyra appeared turned into a myrrh tree.
  - b. Adonis's blood brings the yearly return of anemones.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSTELLATION MYTH RUBRIC

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
<b>Researched Myth</b> 15%	Greek myth is present and clearly explained.	Greek myth is present and explained.	Greek myth is present but they are lacking the necessary details.	Greek myth is incomplete.
<b>Characteristics of a Myth</b> 25%	Myth shows originality and appropriately incorporates the characteristics of a myth.	Myth shows some originality and incorporates some of the characteristics of a myth.	Myth lacks details and originality and needs to incorporate more of the characteristics of a myth.	Myth lacks details and does not accurately incorporate the characteristics of a myth.
<b>Creativity</b> 5%	The myth contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his imagination.	The myth contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his imagination.	The myth contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the myth. The author has tried to use his imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the myth. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
<b>Organization</b> 5%	The myth is very well organized. One idea or scene follows another in a logical sequence with clear transitions.	The myth is pretty well organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used.	The myth is a little hard to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear.	Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.
<b>Quality</b> 5%	Writing is clear and reflects usage of grammar, punctuation, capitalization and mechanic rules.	Writing is relatively clear with minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the writing.	Improvement needed in clarity or significant errors detract from the overall quality.	Writing lacks clarity and had many errors that detract from the myth.
<b>Title</b> 5%	Title is creative, sparks interest and is related to the story and topic.	Title is related to the story and topic.	Title is present, but does not appear to be related to the story and topic.	No title.
<b>3D Model</b> 25%	Visual enhances and clearly represents the myths and the star formation.	Visual represents the myths and star formation.	Visual does not accurately represent the myth or its star formation.	Visual is weak in its representation of the myths and the star formation.
<b>ORAL MYTH</b> 15%	Reads myth to class with enthusiasm so that it can be heard and enjoyed.	Reads myth to class so that it can be heard by all.	Reads myth but it is difficult to hear all parts of the story.	Does not read myth in a manner that allows others to hear the story.