

week 37: to the moon and back (Skies interest badge)

Is that the Moon? Is that where we are landing? Wow isn't that just awesome – and just look at all those stars

Use your own linking sentences ...

Games:

1. **Active:** Attacked by Asteroids

Balls of paper are made and used as asteroids. As the Cubs run around, the leaders throw the "asteroids" at the Cubs. If the Cubs are hit, they are out.

2. **Relay:** Outer Space Walk

Cubs in relay formation; cubs run to opposite side of the playing area, fold their arms over their chest, close their eyes, and spin around 5 times. Open their eyes and run back to the start line (helpers to assist).

3. **Circle:** Shooting Stars

Cubs are holding a "shooting star" (ball). Cub 1 passes the ball to his/her neighbour and so it goes around the circle. In the meantime, Cub 1 must stand up and run around the circle like a shooting star and back to his/her place before the other Cubs can pass the ball around the full circle. The leader then decides who is next to get a turn.

4. **Quiet:** Remember the clouds

Before the game begins, the leader will explain to the Cubs the four different cloud formations (see below). Cards with pictures of clouds are made – 2 cards of each cloud. Cubs can be in Sixes and each Cub gets a turn to turn over a card. They must try and match up the same clouds. When they get the clouds which were discussed beforehand, they need to identify which one it is.

5. **Relay:** Blast off

Games module: page 38

6. **Relay:** Orbit

Before this game is played, the leader should go over the different constellations and the Southern Cross. Cubs in relay formation; a chair is placed at the far end of the playing area in front of each Six. First Cub in each Six runs up to the chair and has to identify 2 constellations and the Southern Cross before he/she can "orbit" the chair. Only then does he/she circle the chair twice and run backwards to his/her Six and the next Cub goes.

Cirrus clouds are the most common of the high clouds. They are composed of ice and are thin, wispy clouds blown in high winds into long streamers. Cirrus clouds are usually white and predict fair to pleasant weather. By watching the movement of cirrus clouds you can tell from which direction weather is approaching. When you see cirrus clouds, it usually indicates that a change in the weather will occur within 24 hours.



Altostratus clouds are grey or blue-grey mid-level clouds composed of ice crystals and water droplets. The clouds usually cover the entire sky. In the thinner areas of the clouds, the sun may be dimly visible as a round disk. Altostratus clouds often form ahead of storms with continuous rain or snow



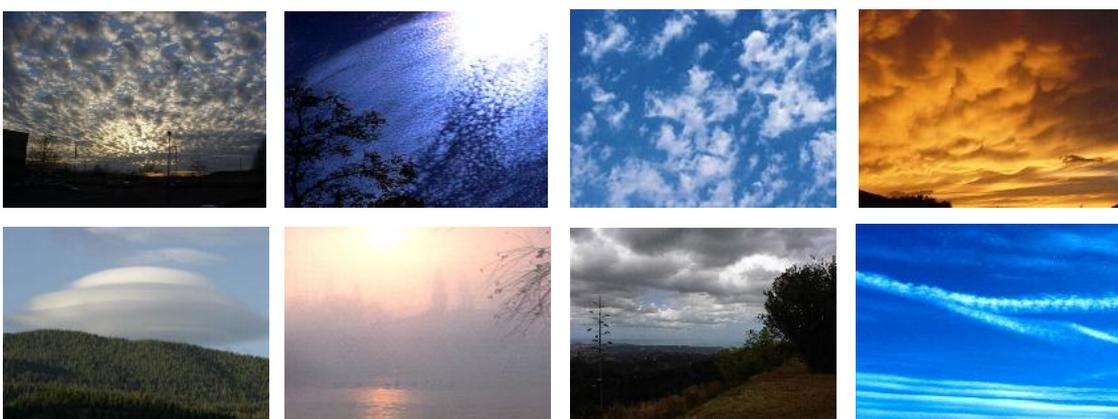
Stratus clouds are uniform greyish clouds that often cover the entire sky. They resemble fog that doesn't reach the ground. Light mist or drizzle sometimes falls out of these clouds.



Cumulus clouds are white, puffy clouds that look like pieces of floating cotton. Cumulus clouds are often called "fair-weather clouds". The base of each cloud is flat and the top of each cloud has rounded towers. When the top of the cumulus clouds resemble the head of a cauliflower, it is called cumulus congestus or towering cumulus. These clouds grow upward and they can develop into giant cumulonimbus clouds, which are thunderstorm clouds.



Extra images of clouds to use in memory game – enlarge as required:



Sense Training:

1. **Sight:** Seeing is believing

Cubs are seated. One leader stands approximately 3 meters from another leader and starts throwing items from one bag and places them in the other bag. When finished the Cubs are to recall what the items are.

2. **Smell:** What in the universe is that smell?

Hang up pictures of different constellations along a washing line. This can be looked at beforehand from a distance. Behind each one place a piece of cotton wool with a smell on it. Cubs are blindfolded and walk along the line and sniff each one. Have a discussion afterwards on the different smells.

Yarn:

The Little Star

There was once a tiny, tiny star about the size of a mosquito. The star lived in space next to its parents – which were two absolutely enormous stars. The tiny star was very curious, and always wanted to know what was going on.

She wanted to travel around to see for herself, but her parents told her she was still too little to go off on her own and that she would have to wait.

One day the star saw a little blue planet. The planet looked so lovely that the tiny star forgot her parents' rules and off she went to get a better look at it. But she flew so fast, so incredibly fast, that she soon got lost and didn't know where home was. When she arrived on the blue planet, which was Earth, the people and animals thought she was a very bright firefly and everyone wanted to catch her. She fled as fast as she could; frightened she hid herself under a sheet. Seeing the sheet moving, everyone thought that she was a ghost and they ran off terrified.

The little star used her new disguise to have fun, scaring the living daylights out of everyone she met. As she went on she arrived at a mountain, where a great dragon lived. The little star tried to scare the dragon too, but she didn't know that it was a ghost-eating dragon. She only got a whiff of this when she found herself surrounded by the flames that the dragon had spit at her.

Luckily, she was a very hot little star, so she managed to escape the dragon and its flames. However, she had been frightened to death and this combined with the sadness of missing her parents. She cried for a while, but then as night fell she got an idea to help her find her parents. She went to a very high mountain and found a big boulder. Then looking up at the sky she hid behind the boulder, then reappeared, then hid again ... and so on.

Her parents were very worried about her and were searching everywhere to find her. They saw her light appearing and disappearing off in the distance. Instantly off they flew to find her.

So the little star had tasted adventure and learnt many things. The most important of all was not to go off on her own and to always listen to her parents.

The stars look so much better from up here in space – let's take a closer look!

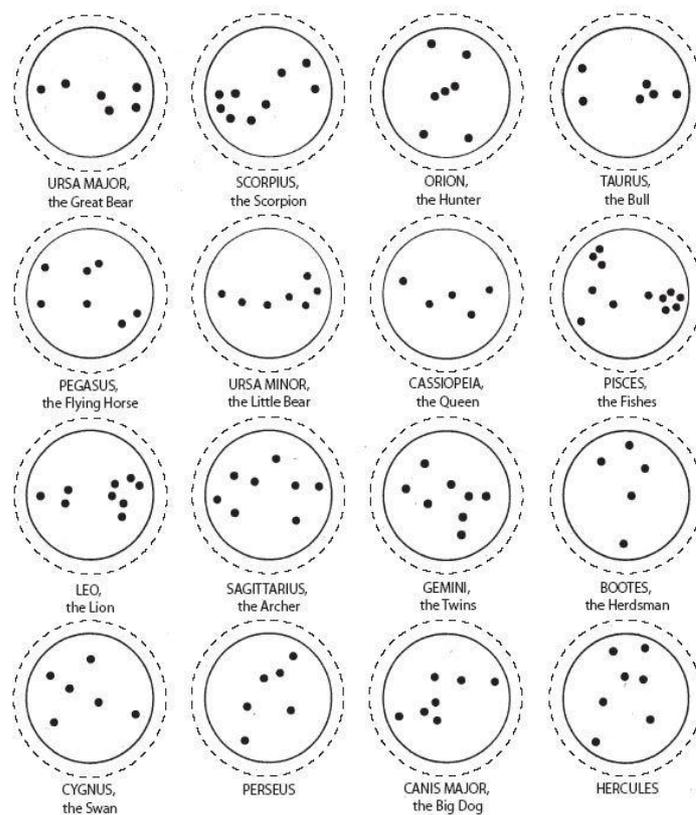
Craft/Activity:

1. **Activity:** Pin Hole Planetarium

Instructions can be found here: <http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/53541/constellation-activity-craft>. *Ensure that the constellations you use are seen in the night sky at the time of running the program so that the Cubs can go home and look for themselves.*

The Johannesburg Planetarium has Sky Maps available for downloading: <http://www.planetarium.co.za/> (Click on the "In the Sky" tab)

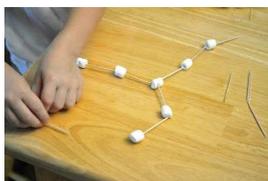
Template of Constellations to use:



2. **Activity:** What's that Cloud?

Cubs make a cloud watcher to identify what clouds can be seen in the sky on that day. Cut out the different clouds and place them around the edge of an A4 piece of cardboard which has the centre cut out. Add a stick for the handle. Hold it up to the sky and see if any of the clouds match what you have on your paper.

3. **Handcraft:** Clever constellations



Cubs make constellations using toothpicks and jelly tots (or similar)



Singing/Play Acting:

1. **Singing:** Stars and Planets (Tune: Frere Jaques)

Stars and Planets, Stars and planets,
Comets too, Comets too!
Meteor shower, meteor shower,
Zoom zoom zoom, zoom zoom zoom.

The Noble Captain Kirk

(Tune: Farmer in the Dell)

The noble Captain Kirk,
He had four hundred men.
He beamed them up to the Enterprise,
And beamed them down again.
And when they're up, they're up,
And when they're down, they're down,
And when they're only halfway up,
They're nowhere to be found.

2. **Playacting:**

In their Sixes, three willing Cubs are chosen to mime one of the following. Fellow Cubs must guess who they are:

- Astronaut
- Taxi driver
- Garbage Man
- Boxing Referee
- Teacher

Advancement covered:

None – Interest Badge programme

Requirements for the Skies badge



1. Identify TWO constellations and the Southern Cross.
2. Make a pinhole planetarium and show THREE constellations.
3. Identify FOUR cloud types.
4. Visit a planetarium OR spot a satellite and record the time of sighting and its path across the sky.

This programme covers requirements 1, 2 and 3. The Cubs will need to complete 4 in their own time – maybe plan an outing to the planetarium?