

Constellations



Stars (stärz) huge balls of hot gases
Constellations (kon stə lā' shənz)
groups of stars that form a pattern

Using SCIENCE Words

1. Constellations form _____.
A. planets
B. gases
C. star patterns

- 1 People have always been fascinated with watching the skies. For thousands of years, people have studied stars. People imagined seeing patterns in the sky and grouped stars to tell stories. The night sky changed with the seasons, and people could tell when to plant crops or go hunting. People also used star patterns to navigate at night. The stars were like highway signs in the sky.
- 2 **Stars** are huge balls of hot gases. They are formed from large clouds of gas and dust. The gases and dust swirl together and collapse to form balls that become stars.
- 3 Long ago, people noticed that stars formed patterns in the sky and that those patterns did not change. They called the patterns of stars **constellations**. There are eighty-eight groups of constellations in the sky.
- 4 The star patterns reminded some people of pictures, much like we might imagine seeing in clouds. People named the star patterns. Some constellations even have stories.
- 5 Orion, the hunter, is a constellation. It is easy to recognize Orion because it has two very bright stars in opposite corners of the constellation. Because of Earth's movements Orion can be seen only during the winter months in the northern hemisphere.
- 6 Draco, the dragon, is another constellation. Draco has a head made of four stars. People living south of the equator cannot see this star pattern.
- 7 The Big Dipper is a well-known constellation. It is always visible in the northern hemisphere. The Big Dipper looks like a water dipper or ladle. It is made of seven large stars.
- 8 The Big Dipper is easy to find and is a useful constellation. Two stars in the Big Dipper's bowl point to the North Star. If you find the North Star, you will always know which direction is north.
- 9 The North Star is part of a constellation named the Little Dipper. Like the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper is shaped like a ladle. The Little Dipper is harder to see than the Big Dipper because its stars are not very bright.

COMPREHENSION

Write *T* if the statement is true, based on the reading. Write *F* if the statement is false.

- There are eighty-eight groups of constellations.
- The North Star is in the Big Dipper.
- Orion can be seen only during the summer months in the northern hemisphere.
- Draco, the dragon, can be seen south of the equator.
- The Little Dipper is harder to see than the Big Dipper.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- A. The plant **grew** in the garden.

The word *grew* tells what the plant did. Words that show action are verbs. Look at the group of words below. Then read the sentences. Write the verb that best completes each sentence.

looks	wrinkle	hunted
knowing	squeeze	named
connected	drew	hoped
invent	smiled	found

- The people _____ maps.
- Kevin _____ the Big Dipper.
- Orion _____ animals.
- The Little Dipper _____ like a ladle.
- Jamal _____ the dots.
- People _____ the stars.

- B. a **hard** rock a **harder** rock
an **awful** storm a more **awful** storm

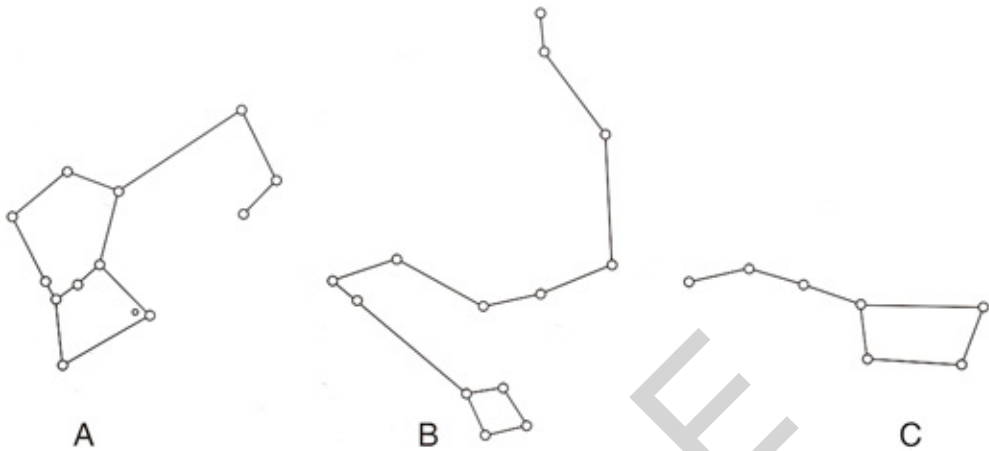
Harder and *more awful* are comparatives of *hard* and *awful*.

Most adjectives of one syllable form the comparative by taking the *-er* ending. Many adjectives of two or more syllables form the comparative by combining with the word *more*. Following this general rule, write the one or two words that will form the comparative degree of each of the following adjectives in **bold type**.

- long** Tara's report is _____ than Jackson's report.
- beautiful** These rocks are _____ than those in my garden.
- tall** My plant is _____ than it was yesterday.
- cheerful** Wren is _____ now that she is home.

THINK ABOUT IT

Look at the constellations. Answer the question.



17. What is the name of constellation C?
- A. Orion
 - B. Draco
 - C. Big Dipper

Using SCIENCE Words

1. C

Comprehension

2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F
6. T

Learn About Words

- A. 7. drew
8. found
9. hunted
10. looks
11. connected
12. named
- B. 13. longer
14. more beautiful
15. taller
16. more cheerful

Think About It

17. C

Writing About Science

Write a poem about the night sky. What does it look like? How does it make you feel?