



# ★ ★ Star Stories Extension Activities

- Prior to reading from the book, pass out a printed image of one of the constellations. For this exercise, you may wish to use Leo (spring), Cygnus (summer and autumn), or Auriga (winter). Explain that people have always seen pictures when they look at the stars. Have students/campers draw pictures on the constellation page, illustrating what they see when they look at the star group. Have the students/campers share their images and ideas about the constellation. Then read from *Star Stories* about how the constellation has been viewed historically.
- All of the stories in the *Star Stories* books are myths of origins. Myths of origins explain the origin of some feature of the natural or social world. After students/campers read one or more myths from *Star Stories*, have them write their own myths of origins about a constellation, the sun, the moon, seasons, a land feature, etc.
- Have the students/campers look at the sky nightly for a period of one week or longer. Have them keep a “night sky journal” during this period, in which they write down what they have observed. Students/campers might write their observations on a calendar or some sort of grid. In addition to writing down observations, you might wish to have students/campers rate the star-viewing conditions each evening on a scale of one to five.
- Have students/campers use star-shaped stickers to recreate constellations that they have read about in *Star Stories*. The stickers can be affixed to a large piece of paper or poster board. With multiple students, each can be assigned a different constellation to assemble. If appropriate to the situation, students/campers can use glow-in-the-dark stickers to decorate a wall or ceiling.
- Have students explore their yard, block, street or camping area in search of the best star-viewing location. (Students/campers should be accompanied by a parent, counselor, or buddy, as appropriate, and should use flashlights if completing this activity after dark.) After completing this exploratory activity, students/campers can be prompted to draw area maps on which they mark out the best sky viewing spots.