Title	Stars and Constellations
subjects	Science, technology, Engineering, Art, Maths
class	5th Grade Primary School
duration	6 hours
materials	Papers, felt tips, glue, scissors  Students learn Constellations, stars, how
	to orient themselves in the sky through the stars and the movement of the Earth
description	Since the dawn of time, man has observed the stars, identifying figures in the sky, formed by groups of stars. He then decided to create a map, dividing the celestial sphere into 88 parts, or 88 constellations. Many of these constellations have been given the name of a figure, an animal or an object of Greek or Roman mythology such as, for example, the constellations of the Swan, the Dolphin, the Frecciaor the Lira. The constellations are formed by the brightest and therefore most visible stars. Seen from our planet, the stars of the various constellations may seem very close to each other but, in reality, the distances are gigantic! The stars of the constellation of Orion, for example, are located at distances ranging from 500 to more than 2,000 light years from

Earth! They seem close to each other because we see them more or less along the same line.

A constellation is a group of stars. If you connect the stars with imaginary lines, as you do with that game in which you have to connect the numbered points, then, with a little imagination, the figures can look like objects, animals or people.

The constellation of, Orion is a group of stars that the Greeks thought seemed like a giant hunter with one ORIONE, perhaps the most beautiful of the constellations, certainly among the easiest to identify. It is visible in winter and early spring. The constellations are very useful for orientation in space.

The Earth, however, turns on itself, and therefore the stars move during the night. But there is a star that remains almost still, because it is right above the north pole. First of all you have to look for this kind of pot with a handle called Big Bear, Big Dipper or Ursa Major.

Remember that depending on the time and the time of year when you look at the sky, the Big Bear can have different positions: sometimes it is for example an overturned pot! Well, look at the two stars on the opposite side of the handle and with 2 fingers mark their distance. Repeat it five times as shown in the figure below and .......you have arrived at STAR POLAR! The POLAR STAR is the last star of the tail of the Ursa Minor that with a little attention and the help of the figure you can also see. Now you know that the North is from that part, if you don't believe it ... try checking with a compass!

assessment

Students can recognize the stars, the constellations and their characteristics, They are able to find the North and the others directions