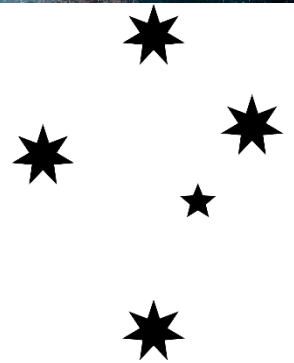


# Stargazing

Have you looked up into the night sky and seen all the patterns the stars make? These are called constellations. Stars can be hard to see because of light pollution; when there are outside lights (like streetlights) that make it difficult to see the sky at night. If the weather is nice and the sky is clear you can go outside and see if you can spot any constellations. Here are some of the constellations that can be visible in the right conditions from the Southern Hemisphere. You can do research yourself to find out what they look like.



- The Southern Cross: This looks like the Southern Cross on the Australian flag. Depending on the time of year the position changes so it may be sideways or upside down.
- Eridanus: Eridanus looks like a winding river of stars.
- Carina: This constellation looks like the bottom of an old fashion boat; think of a stretched out U shape. Look for a very bright star to help you find Carina. The star Canopus is in this constellation.
- Scorpius: Looks like a scorpion.
- Sagittarius: Shaped like a centaur holding a bow and arrow. Sagittarius can be difficult to spot. If you look for stars making a teapot shape, this is part of the bow and arrow in Sagittarius.



Here are some stars that stand out when you are stargazing because they are brighter than others.

- Sirius: The brightest star visible to the human eye (easily seen in Autumn)
- Canopus: Is the second brightest star in the sky.



## The sun and the moon.

- What time does the sun come up and it becomes light? What time does it set? Go outside and record the time. Does it change every month?
- Look at the moon every night for a month. Does it change shape? Draw pictures and keep a record of the moon cycle.



When you look at the night sky you can also see planets among the stars. In spring you can see Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus.

## Some facts:

- A galaxy is a family of stars.
- The Milky Way is our galaxy.

- Gravity is so strong in a black hole that everything gets sucked into it.
- Time freezes at the edge of a black hole.
- Black Holes absorb light.
- The speed of light is 300,000 kilometres per second.



**Fun links to learn more about space!** Check out our [Kids Steam Page](#), click on Science and scroll down to links on space!

