STAR WHEELS

MATERIALS

- Scissors
- Glue/tape or a stapler
- Cardstock/thick paper
- Printed template

DIRECTIONS

1. Print out the template on thick paper (if you don’t have thick paper, regular paper will do).
2. Cut out the planisphere holder around the dark, outer edges. Also cut out the grey oval in the middle of the holder. If printed on regular paper, paste the cut-out template onto a manila folder or something similar to make it sturdier. Cut it out again.
3. Fold the holder in half, so the outside edges line up and the point of the bottom half is in the middle of the window of the upper half. Staple or tape the sides together to create a pocket with the template.
4. Cut out the constellation star wheel around the dark, outer edge.
5. Place the constellation star wheel in the pocket of the planisphere holder. Rotate the wheel so the current date on the edge of the star wheel lines up with the current time on the edge of the planisphere holder. The stars/constellations visible through the window are the ones you’ll be able to see at that date and time, just be sure to line up the compass directions with the correct horizon.
6. Try taking your planisphere outside on a clear night to find the constellations in the sky! Orienting the planisphere is critical – be sure to line up the window correctly to the carinal directions.

For more fun activities, follow us on social media or visit https://slco.org/clark-planetarium/clark-planetarium-classroom/.
Cut out this shaded area with scissors.

It will become a viewing window through which to look at the star wheel behind.

**PLANISPHERE 40°N**

1. Turn the starwheel until you find the point around its edge where today’s date is marked, and line this point up with the current time. The viewing window now shows all of the constellations that are visible in the sky.

2. Go outside and face north. Holding the planisphere up to the sky, the stars marked at the bottom of the viewing window should match up with those that you see in the sky in front of you.

3. Turn to face east or west, and rotate the planisphere so that the word “East” or “West” is at the bottom of the window. Once again, the stars at the bottom of the viewing window should match up with those that you see in the sky in front of you.

For more information, see https://in-the-sky.org/planisphere © Dominic Ford 2020.