

# 1 Planisphere

## The night sky is an exciting place!

**Construct your own Planisphere and use it to map the sky above you.**

The planisphere oval represents a 'window' of the night sky for most Canadians<sup>1</sup>. For each day of the year, the position of the stars and constellations is shown for Midnight, not taking into consideration Daylight Saving Time, which varies from province to province. Therefore, you may notice slight adjustments in the exact position of the stars in Canadian night skies.

The constellations close to the Southern Horizon will be in front of you when you look southward. Similarly, the stars close to the Northern Horizon will be in front of you when you look northward<sup>2</sup>. The same rule applies for constellations close to the Eastern and Western Horizons. The stars in the middle of the oval will be directly over your head.

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<sup>1</sup>Canadians living between 45° and 55° latitude

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<sup>2</sup>Don't know how to locate North, South, East and West? Have a look for the "Locating Magnetic North" activity in this book to help you find them!

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## Materials

- Scissors
- Planisphere

## What to do

1. Cut out the Planisphere from your booklet.
2. Follow the instructions on the Planisphere tabs to put yours together.
3. Go outside on a clear night. Use the Planisphere to help you find constellations!

## Discussion

Once you've found the constellations, see how much you know about them. What do their shapes represent? Where do their names come from? Have your group do some research and share the stories of the night sky!

