

# DIM THE LIGHTS!

## ADVENTURES IN THE DARK

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# STORYTIME BOOKS

## Babies

*Hush, Little Hero* (2022) by Annie Bailey and illustrated by Dawn Lo. This lyrical rhyming book about heroic toddlers is a solid but mellow choice for pajama storytime. In English.

*Shhh! The Baby's Asleep* (2021) by JaNay Brown and illustrated by Elissambura. A silly story in rhyming couplets about a big family trying to stay quiet. Also good for toddlers and preschoolers. SLJ starred review. In English.

*I'm Still Up!* (2022) by Antoinette Portis. A soothing and humorous board book about a baby who stays up late. Great for PJ storytime or a nighttime theme. In English.

*Goodnight, Good Dog; Buenas noches, perrito bueno* (2020) by Mary Lyn Ray and illustrated by Rebecca Malone. Another PJ storytime choice that celebrates nighttime sights and sounds. Pace slows intentionally as the book ends. Kirkus starred review. Bilingual.

## Toddlers

*Gray Fox in the Moonlight* (2023) by Isaac Peterson. A fox walks through a nighttime forest before being called home to her den of kits. Good for late summer transitions into fall. In English.

*Zoom Space Adventure (Zoom #1)* (2020) by Susan Hayes and illustrated by Susanna Rumiz. An interactive board book with peek-a-boo holes that will keep kids guessing. Kirkus starred review. In English.

*Knight Owl* (2022) by Christopher Denise. A charming blend of whimsy and medieval heroism in this book about an owl who goes to knight school. Booklist starred review; Caldecott Honor book. In English.

*Tiny T. Rex and the Very Dark Dark* (2020) by Jonathan Stutzman and illustrated by Jay Fleck. A great read-aloud about an adventurous backyard campout that gets a little spooky. In English.

*Night Animals Need Sleep Too* (2020) by Gianna Marino. A midday bedtime book that will keep readers laughing. In English.

*Wake Up, Freight Train* (2022) by Danna Smith and illustrated by Jon Anderson. Witty rhymes in a soothing rhythm; filled with train facts and adorable sleepy animals. In English.

*Star Fishing* (2022) by Sang-gun Kim. A dreamy yet adventurous lullaby for the restless. In English.

*The Moonlight Zoo* (2022) by Maudie Powell-Tuck and illustrated by Karl James Mountford. Eva looks for her missing cat on an adventure through the midnight zoo. In English.

## TIP:

Adapt any story to fit your time and audience. You can skip words and even whole sections.

## TIP:

Use clipart to make visual schedule cards for storytime. These help families and children anticipate what comes next, and are especially helpful when working with neurodivergent children.

## TODDLERS

*Before the World Wakes* (2022) by Estelle Laure and illustrated by Paola Zakami. Mellow, poetic prose and a joyous celebration of daybreak; good for “waking” children back up after PJ storytime. In English.

*La noche en que tú naciste* (2015) by Nancy Tillman. A new Spanish translation of *On the Night You Were Born*, a simple rhyming story about the wonder of new life. In Spanish.

## Preschoolers

*Bowwow Powwow* (2018) by Brenda J. Child and illustrated by Jonathan Thunder. A delightful story about a joyous powwow and the “bowwow powwow” that comes later in a little girl’s imagination. In English.

*The Nice Dream Truck* (2021) by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Brigitte Barrager. A whimsical, upbeat bedtime story filled with adventure and imagination. In English.

*The Froggies Do Not Want to Sleep* (2021) by Adam Gustavson. The froggies would rather hop, play the accordion, and sing opera while being shot out of a cannon, amongst other things. A great pajama storytime choice. *Kirkus* starred review. In English.

*The Brave, Bold Bunny* (2020) by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Chow Hon Lam. A bunny sneaks off into the night and then delights in returning home. In English.

*Night Lunch* (2022) by Eric Fan and illustrated by Dena Seiferling. A rhythmic story about a midnight lunch rush of anthropomorphic animals; a PJ storytime choice that will leave kids heading towards the kitchen rather than to sleep. In English.

*Nigel and the Moon* (2022) by Antwan Eady and illustrated by Gracey Zhang. A glowing tale about self-acceptance and dreaming big. In English.

*Stella Keeps Up the Sun* (2022) by Clothilde Ewing and illustrated by Lynn Gaines. A joyful and industrious little girl tries to keep up the sun so she doesn’t have to go to bed; also a good introduction to time zones. In English.

*Bonnie’s Rocket* (2022) by Emeline Lee and Alina Chau. An engaging story about a little girl who follows in her engineer father’s footsteps and builds a rocket. Includes a craft project. In English.

*Astro Girl* (2019) by Ken Wilson-Max. Vibrant paintings and conversational text in this story about a girl who wants to be an astronaut; her father is the primary caregiver and her mother has a career in STEM. In English.

*Pruette and Soo* (2022) by Nancy Viau and illustrated by Jorge Lacera. An engaging story about making friends with those from other planets. In English.

*La tímida Willow* (2022) / *Shy Willow* (2021) by Cat Min. A bunny who lives in a mailbox overcomes her shyness to take a trip to the moon to deliver a letter.

## TIP:

Remind families that audiobooks are also fun to listen to at home, and make recommendations for different age groups.

## PRESCHOOL

A dreamlike story with luminous artwork. Separate Spanish and English editions.

*La víspera de orgullo* / 'Twas the Night Before Pride (2022) by Joanna McClintick and illustrated by Juana Medina. This lyrical celebration of diverse queer families is an excellent Pride month choice. Uses non-binary pronouns. Age-appropriate rhymes and bright illustrations. Separate Spanish and English editions.

### TIP:

Use carpet tiles so everyone has their own space during storytime. Carpet stores may donate remnants at low cost.

# STORYTIME SONGS

## Song/Movement: Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Children hold stuffies and raise them into the air during blast-off. Listen to melody from King County Library System here: <https://bit.ly/3r75PSv>

Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We're going to the moon  
Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We're going to the moon  
If you want to take a trip,  
Climb aboard my rocket ship  
Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We're going to the moon  
In 5, 4, 3, 2, 1  
BLAST OFF

Verses:

Far, far, far, we're going to the stars  
Fun, fun, fun, we're going to the sun

## Song/Movement: Here We Go Loopty Loo

Great movement song. Sing faster and faster for added challenge. Listen to version from Kidsongs on Youtube here: <https://bit.ly/3Xtlman>

Here we go loopty loo  
Here we go loopty li  
Here we go loopty loo  
All on a Saturday night

Here we go way down low  
Here we go way up high  
Here we go way down low  
We really know how to fly

Here we go round and round  
Here we go fast and slow  
Here we go round and round

### STEM FACT:

Why is it dark in space?  
There's no atmosphere to scatter light, so light from the sun travels in a straight line without scattering; all the colors stay together. This is why, in space, the sun looks like a white ball with dark, empty space around it.

## STORYTIME SONGS

Oh what a great way to go

Here we go up and down  
Here we sit side by side  
Here we go up and down  
Oh what a wonderful ride

### Rhyme/Flannel Board: Five Glowing Jellyfish

For an underwater glow theme, make felt jellyfish out of glow-in-the-dark fleece and googly eyes. Lyrics from CSLP.

Five glowing jellyfish sat upon a rock.  
One fell off and had a shock. Aaaaaah!  
(Repeat four, three, two, one, glowing jellyfish)  
No glowing jellyfish sat upon a rock  
One climbed back on and gave a knock. Knock.  
(Repeat for one, two, three, four, five)

### Song: Luna, Lunera, Cascabelera

A nursery rhyme from Peru. The English version (not an exact translation) is singable. Listen on *Mama Lisa's World* here: <https://bit.ly/46Gsohp>

Luna, lunera, cascabelera,  
Cinco pollitos y una ternera,  
Sal solecito, caliéntame un poquito,  
Por hoy y por mañana por toda la semana.

Moody, thoughtless moon,  
Five chicks, a calf and a loon,  
Come out little sun, warm me like no one,  
For the dawn and the morning, for the night and the evening.

### Song: De 1 a 10 / From 1 to 10

A gently lullaby that's great for PJ storytime. Words and music by 123 Andrés on the album *La luna*. Lyrics reprinted with permission.

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Una manta                    | One blanket                 |
| Dos palomas                  | Two doves                   |
| Tres estrellas que se asoman | Three stars peeking through |
| Cuatro gatos                 | Four cats                   |
| Cinco cuervos                | Five ravens                 |
| Seis zapatos medio sueltos   | Six shoes with laces untied |
| Siete sueños                 | Seven dreams                |
| Ocho flores                  | Eight flowers               |
| Nueve nubes de colores       | Nine colorful clouds        |
| Diez abrazos                 | Ten hugs                    |
| Diez abrazos                 | Ten hugs                    |

**STORYTIME SONGS**

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Diez abrazos sólo tuyos  | Ten hugs only for you |
| Vámonos de vuelta al uno | Let's go back to one  |
| Diez                     | Ten                   |
| Nueve                    | Nine                  |
| Ocho                     | Eight                 |
| Siete                    | Seven                 |
| Seis                     | Six                   |
| Cinco                    | Five                  |
| Cuatro                   | Four                  |
| Tres                     | Three                 |
| Dos                      | Two                   |
| Uno                      | One                   |

## STAY AND PLAY

### **Babies/Toddlers: Sleeping Stuffies Wake Up**

Hand out stuffies or ask caregivers to bring them from home. Tuck the stuffies in, then ask another staff member turn out the lights. Wait a minute, then turn the lights back on and say "Stuffies, wake up!"

### **Toddlers/Preschoolers: Glow Stripe Dance Party**

Pass out glow sticks, or add glow strips to clothing and turn out the lights. Caregivers dance with babies, and stay on hand to encourage toddlers and preschoolers who might be afraid of the dark.

### **Toddlers/Preschoolers: Create a Fort**

Make several "caves" out of two chairs together and a blanket draped over the top. Optionally, decorate the caves with fun sensory toys and lights. Encourage children to go under and explore!

### **Toddlers/Preschoolers: Fun with Flashlights**

Cut out animal silhouettes and glue them to sticks or straws. Lower the lights, and have children or caregivers shine lights on the silhouettes to project them onto the wall.

# UNDER-THE-SEA MAGIC PAPER FLASHLIGHT

## AGES

Children 5–8

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Create an underwater adventure with hidden surprises! Works well for any “in the dark” scene. Children trace a template or use their imagination to draw silhouettes. Alternatively, this craft can be premade for an early literacy activity: Write letters of the alphabet on the plastic sheet instead, and have preschoolers color in the flashlight. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Plastic sheet protectors
- Black permanent markers
- Black paper or cardstock
- Flashlight printout (see Resources)
- Scissors
- A stencil or a template for children to trace (optional)
- Colored permanent markers (optional)

To make:

- Draw a scene on a plastic sheet protector with a permanent marker. Add color if desired.
- Slide a piece of black paper into the sheet protector.
- Print the flashlight silhouette onto white paper.
- Cut out the flashlight (and light beam) as one piece. Glue it onto heavier paper or cardstock.
- Color the body of the flashlight (optional).
- Slip the flashlight between the black paper and the drawing.
- Move the light beam to highlight different parts of the picture.

### TIP:

Be sure to use permanent markers, as washable ones smudge on the plastic.

### TIP:

The Bedtime Shadow Book series works great for flashing silhouettes on the wall.



Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

## ARTS & CRAFTS

## RESOURCES

### Web

“Under the Sea Magic Flashlight” from DIY Labs on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NShKwj>

### Books

Bedtime Shadow Books (series) (picture book NF)

*Earth’s Incredible Oceans* (2021) by Jess French and illustrated by Claire McElfatrick (early reader NF)

*The Great Barrier Reef* (2022) by Helen Scales and illustrated by Lisk Feng (early reader NF)

### Printables

Traceable Flashlight

Traceable Water Scene

Traceable Water Scene Courtesy of Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI





# GLOW-IN-THE-DARK ADVENTUREMOBILE CONTEST

## AGES

Children 5–8

Tweens 9–12



Image source: Shutterstock

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children design adventuremobiles out of recycled materials, and at least one element of the adventuremobile must glow in the dark. You could focus on rockets, UFOs, ground vehicles, submarines, or leave the theme wide open. Require children to name their adventuremobile and write a description of its function. This program can be run in person over several days, or make it passive by maintaining a recycling building station in the library. Offer to store incomplete adventuremobiles to keep them safe between building sessions. After the entries are in, hold a live voting party so voters can see the glow-in-the-dark elements. Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes for a voting party.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

### Materials:

- Recycled materials
- Glow-in-the dark elements (stickers, paint, glow sticks, reflective tape, etc.)
- Miscellaneous craft supplies
- Safety scissors
- Glue, glue sticks, and tape
- Entry numbers and labels
- Printed ballots and pencils
- Blank description cards
- Ballot box
- Display space for completed adventuremobiles
- Storage space for adventuremobiles-in-progress (or to hide before voting)
- Prizes

### Preparation:

- Decide on contest requirements (e.g., theme, size limit, voting categories by age)
- Make flyers with contest information, deadline, and date of the voting party
- Organize the space to display contest entries (and store them before voting)
- Print number display card tents (one per entry)
- Print ballots
- Prep ballot box
- Organize space to display contest entries

ARTS & CRAFTS | DECORATION/DISPLAY | PASSIVE | STEM

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a display space and personnel to keep track of submissions and display the entries. You might also need a table-top building station in the library.

## RESOURCES

### Web

“US Submarines Poster” from Naval Submarine League: <https://bit.ly/3CSojc1>

“Rockets of the World” from World Economic Forum: <https://bit.ly/433LnPU>

### Books

*Rocket Science: A Beginner’s Guide to the Fundamentals of Spaceflight* (2020) by Andrew Radar and illustrated by Galen Frazer (middle grade NF)

*Awesome Construction Activities for Kids* (2021) by Akyiaa Morrison (middle grade NF)

*Upcycle It: Crafts for Kids* (2022) by Jennifer Perkins (middle grade NF)

*Planet Omar: Ultimate Rocket Blast* (2023) by Zanib Mian and illustrated by Kyan Cheng (middle grade F)

*My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* (2019) by Ibi Zoboi (middle grade F)

### Printables

Recycled Adventuremobile Ballots (in English and Spanish)

Recycled Adventuremobile Entry Form (in English and Spanish)

**GLOW-IN-THE DARK RECYCLED  
ADVENTUREMOBILE BALLOT**

Write the number of the adventuremobile  
you like best here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please vote only once. Thank you!*

The winner will be announced on \_\_\_\_\_

**GLOW-IN-THE DARK RECYCLED  
ADVENTUREMOBILE BALLOT**

Write the number of the adventuremobile  
you like best here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please vote only once. Thank you!*

The winner will be announced on \_\_\_\_\_

**GLOW-IN-THE DARK RECYCLED  
ADVENTUREMOBILE BALLOT**

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ADVENTUREMOBILE BALLOT**

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*Please vote only once. Thank you!*

The winner will be announced on \_\_\_\_\_

**GLOW-IN-THE DARK RECYCLED  
ADVENTUREMOBILE BALLOT**

Write the number of the adventuremobile  
you like best here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please vote only once. Thank you!*

The winner will be announced on \_\_\_\_\_

**BOLETA PARA EL CONCURSO DE  
VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS  
QUE BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Escribe aquí el número del motoaventura  
que más te guste: \_\_\_\_\_

**Por favor vota solo una vez. ¡Gracias!**

El ganador \_\_\_\_\_

**BOLETA PARA EL CONCURSO DE  
VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS  
QUE BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Escribe aquí el número del motoaventura  
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El ganador \_\_\_\_\_

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**Por favor vota solo una vez. ¡Gracias!**

El ganador \_\_\_\_\_

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que más te guste: \_\_\_\_\_

**Por favor vota solo una vez. ¡Gracias!**

El ganador \_\_\_\_\_

**BOLETA PARA EL CONCURSO DE  
VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS  
QUE BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Escribe aquí el número del motoaventura  
que más te guste: \_\_\_\_\_

**Por favor vota solo una vez. ¡Gracias!**

El ganador \_\_\_\_\_

**BOLETA PARA EL CONCURSO DE  
VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS  
QUE BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Escribe aquí el número del motoaventura  
que más te guste: \_\_\_\_\_

**Por favor vota solo una vez. ¡Gracias!**

El ganador \_\_\_\_\_

**GLOW-IN-THE DARK RECYCLED  
ADVENTUREMOBILE ENTRY FORM**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Adventuremobile Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where does it glow in the dark? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GLOW-IN-THE DARK RECYCLED  
ADVENTUREMOBILE ENTRY FORM**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Adventuremobile Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where does it glow in the dark? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Where does it glow in the dark? \_\_\_\_\_

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ADVENTUREMOBILE ENTRY FORM**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Adventuremobile Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where does it glow in the dark? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FORMULARIO DE PARTICIPACIÓN EN EL CONCURSO  
DE VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS QUE  
BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Nombre completo: \_\_\_\_\_

Edad: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del móvil de aventura: \_\_\_\_\_

¿Dónde brilla en la oscuridad? \_\_\_\_\_

**FORMULARIO DE PARTICIPACIÓN EN EL CONCURSO  
DE VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS QUE  
BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Nombre completo: \_\_\_\_\_

Edad: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del móvil de aventura: \_\_\_\_\_

¿Dónde brilla en la oscuridad? \_\_\_\_\_

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DE VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS QUE  
BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Nombre completo: \_\_\_\_\_

Edad: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del móvil de aventura: \_\_\_\_\_

¿Dónde brilla en la oscuridad? \_\_\_\_\_

**FORMULARIO DE PARTICIPACIÓN EN EL CONCURSO  
DE VEHÍCULOS DE AVENTURA RECICLADOS QUE  
BRILLAN EN LA OSCURIDAD**

Nombre completo: \_\_\_\_\_

Edad: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del móvil de aventura: \_\_\_\_\_

¿Dónde brilla en la oscuridad? \_\_\_\_\_

# CONSTELLATION JARS

## AGES

Children 5–8

Tweens 9–12

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Put constellations in a jar! This simple craft is great for children and tweens, and can also be made into a take-and-make kit. To age up, add STEM materials about astronomy and/or astrology. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Glass jars, large or small, with lids
- LED light strings (1 per participant)
- Black paper or aluminum foil
- Labels and markers
- Cardboard sheets (to put under paper before poking holes)
- Something to poke holes with, such as ball point pens
- Clear tape or staples

Preparation:

- Figure out the size of constellation paper needed to fit the jars
- Pre-poke holes for younger children.
- For a 16-oz mason jar, the circumference is ~10.2"
- For a 32-oz mason jar, the circumference is ~12.0"
- Be sure to test a piece to make it fit your specific jar, as size may vary between brands.

Assembly:

1. Cut paper or foil into a rectangle, about the height of the jar up to the lid and wide enough to wrap around the inside circumference.
2. Place paper/foil onto a piece of cardboard or a silicon mat to protect the table underneath.
3. Place a constellation template (see below) on top of the paper/foil.
4. Poke holes through the template into the paper/foil rectangle to make "stars."
5. Roll the paper/foil into a loose tube, and use tape or staples to secure the ends.
6. Insert tube into the jar.
7. Place the fairy light string or tealight inside the tube and put the lid on the jar.
8. In the dark, turn on jar lights to enjoy the calming constellations.



Image source: Greta Funk of Nortonville Public Library, Nortonville, KS



Image source: Greta Funk of Nortonville Public Library, Nortonville, KS

## ADAPTATION:

For an intergalactic theme, children deconstruct alien eggs or bring a small object from home to see if the "alien" can guess what it is.

## ARTS &amp; CRAFTS

## RESOURCES

**Books**

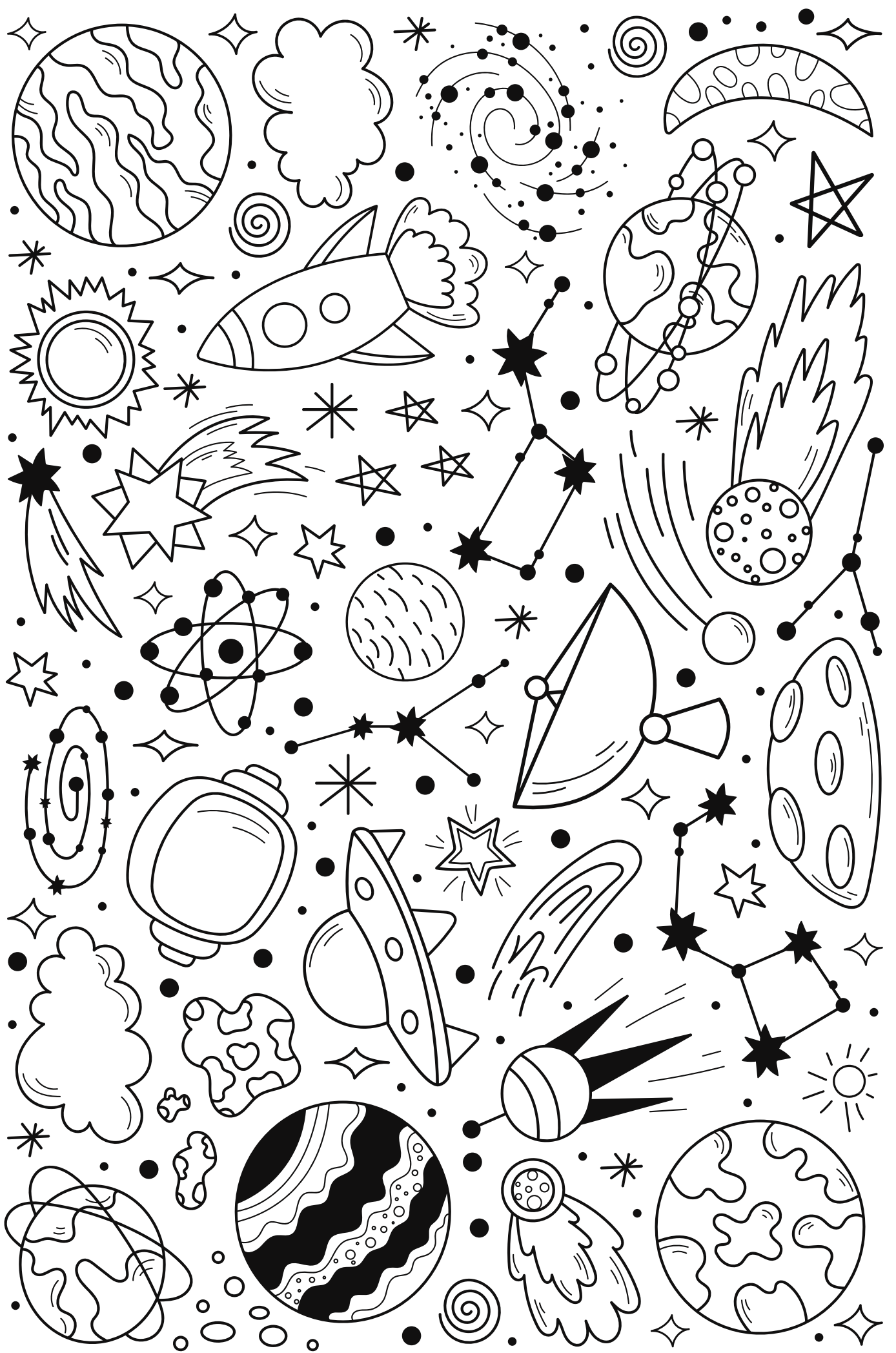
*Constellations for Kids* (2020) by Kelsey Johnson (early reader NF)

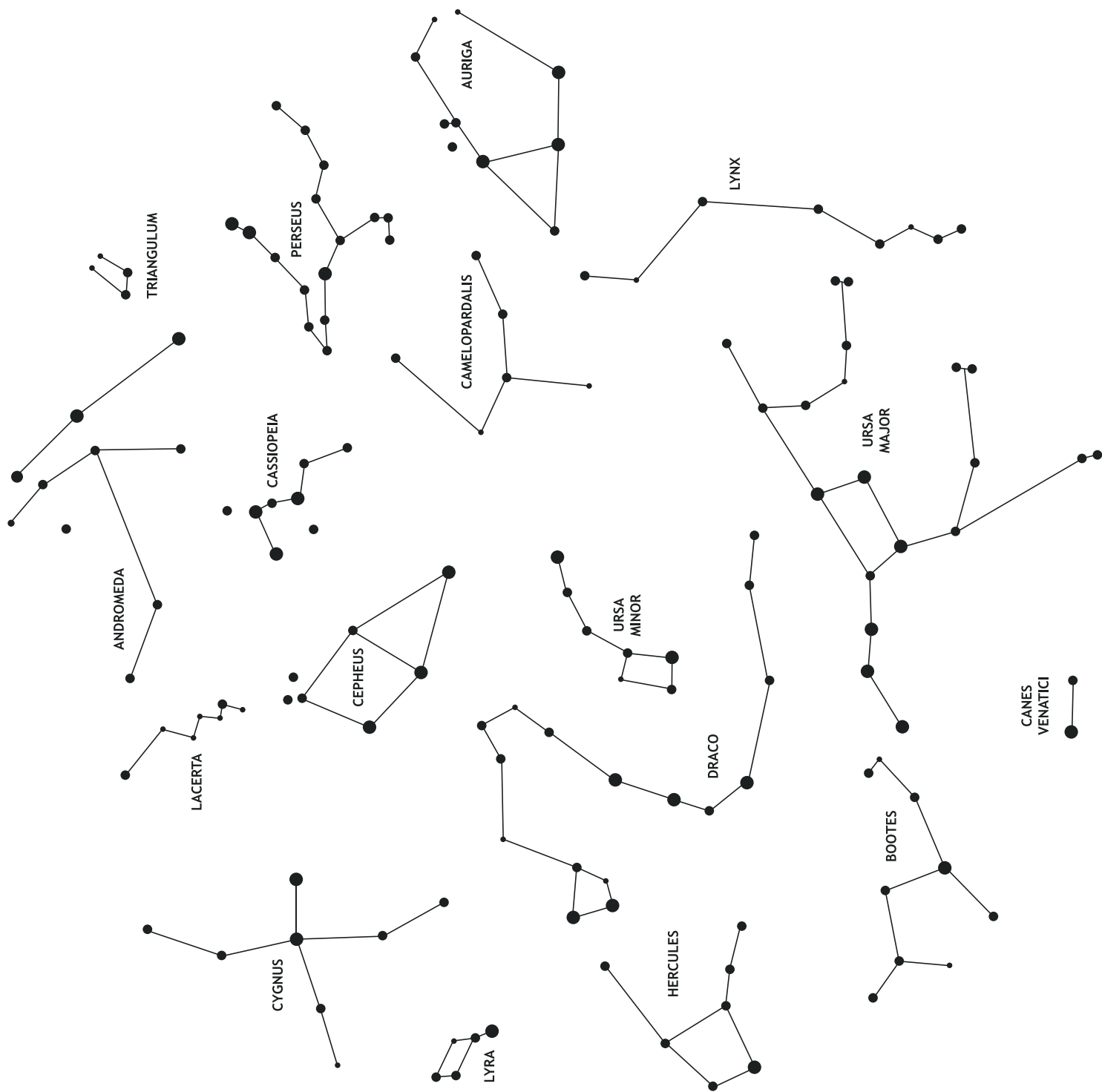
*Where Are the Constellations?* (2021) by Stephanie Sabol (middle grade NF)

**Printables**

Space Coloring Sheet

Constellations





# SCIENCE ADVENTURE: PAPER CIRCUIT ART

## AGES

Tweens 9–12

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Combine art and science to make your work shine! In this program, tweens make LED paper circuits to light up their artwork. This program can be tweaked to fit any theme, but for “in the dark,” consider centering the program around nighttime, space, fireflies, or deep ocean. Tip: The artwork doesn’t have to be flat! Greeting cards and origami also work well. Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

### Materials:

- 5mm LED lights-assorted colors
- ¼-inch double-sided conductive copper tape with adhesive (four 6-inch strips per participant)
- CR2032 coin cell (3V) batteries (one per participant)
- Cardstock
- Pencils
- Various art supplies
- Foam double-sided tape
- Hair dryer

### Preparation:

- Gather supplies and make a sample circuit.
- Prepare a basic overview of circuits and how they work.
- The simplest way to make a circuit is to take an LED light and a CR2032 3V battery; touch the long end of the light to the positive side of the battery and the short side to the negative side of the battery.

### During the program:

- Give an overview of circuits.
- Give each participant an LED light and a battery to test.
- Show some examples of paper circuit artwork (2- and 3-D).
- Give participants time to create their art
- When the art is complete, poke a small hole where the LED light will go.
- Put the LED light through the hole and spread the prongs so they are flat against the paper. Note: The longer prong is the positive side; the shorter prong is the negative side. (See Printables for circuit diagram)
- Cut one 6-inch piece of copper tape in half. Attach one 3-inch piece to



Image source: Sara Ebersole of the Orange County Library System-Hiawasse Branch in Orlando, FL

## ADAPTATION:

Also makes a great family program.

## TIP:

If using paint, a hair dryer speeds up the drying process.

## TIP:

Remove the backing from the copper tape 2 inches at a time to prevent it from tangling.

## STEM | ARTS & CRAFTS

the short prong and run the tape perpendicular to the prong.

- Add a 5-inch piece of copper tape at a 90-degree angle.
- Add another 6-inch piece of copper tape at a 90-degree angle.
- Using foam tape, place the coin battery negative side-down on the copper tape (see figure)
- Add the last 60-inch piece of copper tape at a 90-degree angle (over the coin cell battery)
- Add the last 3-inch piece of copper tape at a 90-degree angle, attaching it to the long prong.
- Flip the paper over. When you push on the bump (the foam bump), the LED should light up!



Image source: Sara Ebersole of the Orange County Library System-Hiawasse Branch in Orlando, FL

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. To help troubleshoot the circuits, add volunteers for larger groups.

## RESOURCES

### Web

“Paper Circuits” from PLIX: <https://bit.ly/3CVEHIV>

“How to Make Paper Circuits” from Science Buddies on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3Py0bmH>

“Explaining an Electrical Circuit” from Region 10 ESC on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/44IKEKM>

### Books

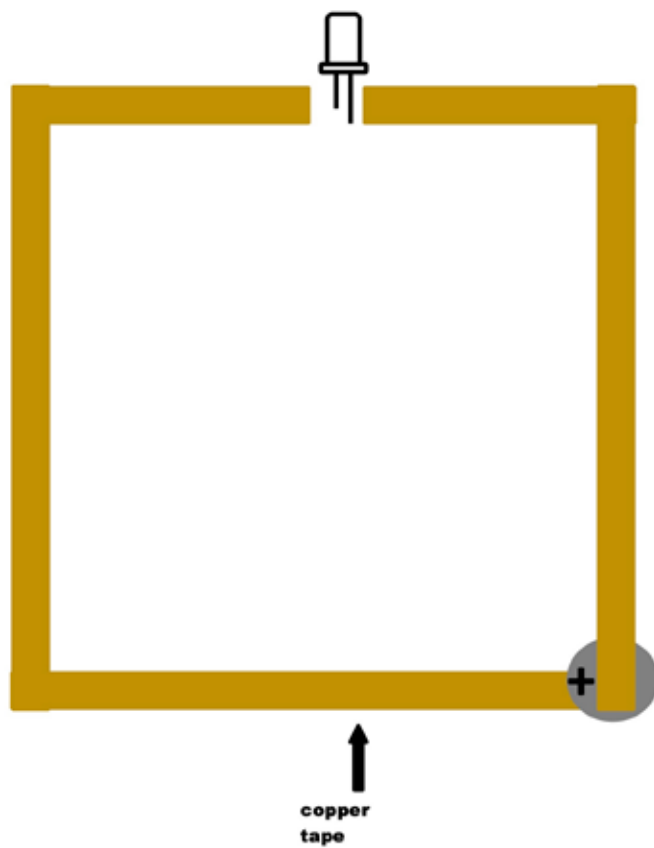
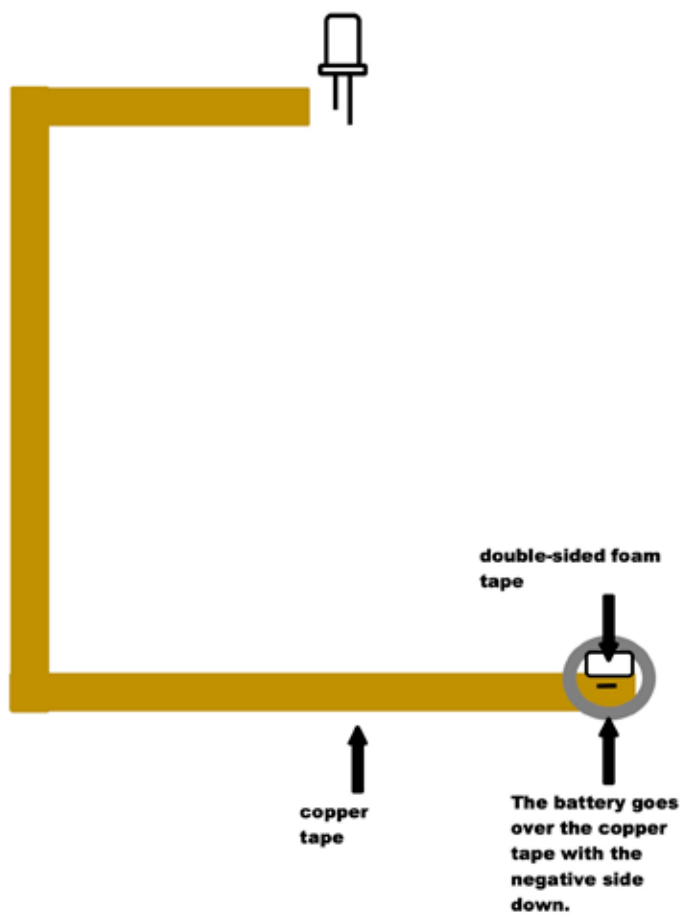
*Making Simple Robots* (2022) by Kathy Ceceri (middle grade NF)

*Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor* (2018) by Temple Grandin (middle grade NF)

*The Big Book of Makerspace Projects* (2016) by Colleen Graves and Aaron Graves (YA NF)

### Printables

Circuit Diagram



## ARTS &amp; CRAFTS

# GLOW-IN-THE-DARK PAINT-ALONG

## AGE

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

Adults



Image source: Shutterstock

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Adventure paint-along in the dark! Invite a local artist to lead a paint-along session for an adventure scene (such as a landscape, cityscape, night sky, or suitcase). Provide glow-in-the dark paint for adding special touches. YouTube also has many great paint-alongs to choose from. Alternatively, choose a simple tutorial from a children's painting or drawing book in your collection. Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Canvas
- Easels (freestanding or table easels)
- Paint and brushes
- Smocks (or encourage patrons to bring their own)
- Water bowls
- Rags for cleaning up
- Running water for clean-up
- Hair dryers to speed up drying time
- Microwave to soften coconut oil

## RESOURCES

### Web

“How to Make a Recycled Cardboard Easel” from Sophie’s World on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3r9zACI>

“How to Run a Bob Ross Inspired Paint-Along Theme Party” from Hawk Hill: <https://bit.ly/3PCEphA>

### Books

Middle Grade Art Books

*How to Paint with Acrylics* (2021) from Rockridge Press

*How to Draw Adorable* (2022) by Carlianne Tipsey

*The Master Guide to Drawing Cartoons* (2022) by Christopher Hart

## ADAPTATION:

Forego the paint-along and have participants paint “in the dark” with their eyes closed. Drawing without looking at the page activates the right brain, and the drawings can be hilarious.

## TIP:

Try borrowing freestanding easels from a local school.

GAME/ACTIVITY | DECORATION/DISPLAY | PASSIVE

# ADVENTURE PLAYLISTS

## AGES

Teens 13–18

Adults

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Encourage teens to share their favorite music! In this passive program, teens make individual playlists and share them with the library. They could also create and share playlists online, using Spotify, SoundCloud, or their favorite music platform. Make it theme-specific about adventure/travel songs, summer nights, songs about the dark, etc., or leave it open to teens' all-time favorites. Display the playlists on a bulletin board (or on social media), along with any matching CDs you may have for circulation. Suggested runtime: Passive.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Blank lists for teens to fill in
- Pens
- Bulletin board or display space with instructions
- Thumbtacks (out of reach of small children)
- Selections from your library's music collection (optional)

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Bulletin board or display space.

## RESOURCES

### Web

"How to Make the Perfect Playlist" from the *New York Times*:

<https://bit.ly/46tzBRt>

"How to Create a Perfect Playlist" from *The Teen Magazine*:

<https://bit.ly/46uVwlk>

"2023 YA Book Title Earworms" from *Bookriot*: <https://bit.ly/42ZV6GV>



Image source: Shutterstock

## ADAPTATION:

Turn off the lights, hand out glow sticks, and hold a teen dance party (to songs to which your library has public performance rights). Or dim the lights, hand out snacks, and let teens share playlists with each other and play samples.

## TIP:

This program is a great way to make sure teens know how to access your digital music collection.

## TIP:

Monitor the posted playlists for appropriateness.

GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

# INTERNATIONAL MOVIE NIGHTS

## AGES

Teens

Multigenerational

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Run a series of screenings of foreign films (or short films) and provide snacks to match the movie's country. Dim the lights and provide pillows and blankets to make the movie night extra cozy. Optionally, have someone who is knowledgeable about the film's country of origin to discuss the finer points of the movie, such as locations or cultural differences. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- A projector, screen, and a laptop
- Films with public performance licenses
- Well-spaced chairs with floor seating options
- Pillows and blankets (optional)
- Snacks (optional)

Preparation:

- Ask patrons to sign up and note any food allergies.
- Write descriptions of ingredients for all snacks you provide.
- Promote the film series!

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

A screening space with chairs.

## RESOURCES

### Web

"The Official Academy Awards Database":

<https://awardsdatabase.oscars.org/>

"The World Factbook" from the CIA: <https://bit.ly/444jtUW>



Image source: Shutterstock

### TIP:

Acquire public performance licenses for the films you screen.

### TIP:

For accessibility, add CC to all screenings (even if no one asks for it).

### TIP:

Add books and cookbooks related to your films!

# CITIZEN SCIENCE WITH SCISTARTER: MEASURING LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

## AGES

Multigenerational

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Enlist your patrons in Citizen Science! In this program, patrons check out a light meter kit to measure the light in the night sky. Suggested runtime: Passive.

All materials were developed by Arizona State University and SciStarter with support from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Moore Foundation. All materials are reprinted with permission. Want more Citizen Science? Sign up for the National Citizen and Community Science Library Network, which is supported by Arizona State University, SciStarter, and the National Girls Collaborative Project.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

The check-out kits include:

- Sky quality meter-L (SQM-L, SQM)
- Red LED light flashlight
- Planisphere
- Printed data entry sheet
- Sky quality meter instructions

To prepare:

- Print multiple copies of the Globe at Night Data Sheet (to be replaced after each check-out)
- Print and laminate the Activity Guide (see Resources)

Steps for patrons:

1. Check out a collection kit from the library.
2. Create a SciStarter account.
3. Choose a clear night, and go outside more than an hour after sunset. Bring the kit with you!
4. Use the kit's LED flashlight when needed.
5. Use the planisphere to find a constellation.
6. On the Globe at Night data sheet, record the data, time, location, and weather conditions.
7. Press "power" on the Sky Quality Meter, and be sure to point it away from the moon and any street lights. The lower the number on the SQM, the higher the light pollution

8. Record the SQM's serial number and light magnitude number on the data sheet.
9. Turn off the SQM and flashlight, and return materials to the kit. Except for the data sheet, which you can keep.
10. Go to the Globe at Night website (<https://globeatnight.org/>) to enter the data from your data sheet. Be sure to include your SciStarter email so you get credit in your SciStarter dashboard!
11. Return your kit to the library
12. Complete the Citizen Science Feedback Survey.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Measuring Light in the Night from SciStarter: <https://bit.ly/3PJGU1s>

### Printables

Measuring Light in the Night Activity Guide (reprinted with permission from SciStarter)

### TIP:

For the Measuring Light in the Night Activity Guide in Spanish, see <https://bit.ly/441f992>



Emily Maletz / SciStarter

# MEASURING LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

**Help gather light pollution data.**

# MEASURING LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

Help gather light pollution data.

Light pollution is intrusive artificial (usually outdoor) light. Too much light pollution can wash out starlight in the night sky, interfere with astronomical research, disrupt ecosystems, have adverse health effects, and waste energy.

Globe at Night is an international citizen science project that involves the public in measuring and collecting night sky brightness observations to help scientists understand the impact of light pollution.



Public domain / Wikimedia Commons

## KIT DETAILS

*Kit components will vary based on your library's selections.*

*This kit likely contains the following materials:*

**Sky Quality Meter - L (SQM-L, SQM)** - Hand-held meter for measuring sky brightness.

**Red LED flashlight** - Designed to help guide you to nighttime viewing areas without disrupting user night vision or nocturnal animals who are less sensitive than humans to the red range of light.

**Planisphere** - Rotating star finder (planisphere) to help you identify the constellation you'll need to find, based on the Globe at Night website's instructions.

**Printed Data Entry Sheet** - Record the date, location, constellation, Sky Quality Meter serial number and data and other data on this sheet to enter on the Globe at Night website later.

**Sky Quality Meter Instructions** - This helpful guide provides data context and troubleshooting tips.

## SO WHAT?

You'll use these materials, the instructions on SciStarter and the web data entry form on Globe at Night to share your observations and data. The data is used by scientists to monitor levels of light pollution and help inform steps you can take to address the impacts of light pollution on local energy consumption, plants, wildlife, and human health.

## PLAN

Choose a clear night when the moon is not up and when you can go outside more than an hour after sunset.

## PREPARE

Review the instructions on [SciStarter.org/library-kits](https://SciStarter.org/library-kits). Select the “Measuring Light in the Night” kit page, view the video and review the step-by-step instructions. Be sure to review the Data Sheet and Sky Quality Meter instructions located in your kit.

Create your free **SciStarter** account and write down the email address you used to create your account (you’ll need it to earn credit for your data contributions to Globe at Night).

After you’ve reviewed the instructions, **click “Participate”** to be directed to the Globe at Night website’s “Report” page. Take note of the preferred dates to participate and constellations to observe.

## PARTICIPATE

Remove the LED flashlight from the kit. Press it and use the red light to guide you outside if needed. Bring the kit with you, including the data worksheet and a pencil (use a pencil so you can use the data sheet multiple times).

Allow your eyes to adjust to the night sky, and then use the planisphere to find a constellation.

On the Globe at Night data sheet, write down the data, time and location. Make a note of the Constellation you’re observing and the sky conditions as outlined on the data sheet.

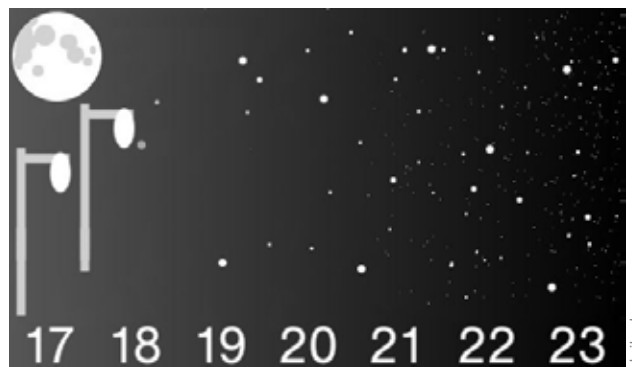
Jot down the email address you used to create your SciStarter account, where noted at the bottom of the sheet.

Press the power button on the Sky Quality Meter (don’t face it directly at light such as the moon or a street light; review the SQM printed instructions again if needed). The lower the number on the SQM, the higher the light pollution. Write the SQM’s serial number and light magnitude number on the data sheet.

When you’re ready to add data to Globe at Night, go to [globeatnight.org/webapp](https://globeatnight.org/webapp) and enter the data from your data sheet. Don’t forget to include your SciStarter email in the online Globe at Night data form to get credit for your contributions in your SciStarter Dashboard. On the Globe at Night website, you can also review data from around the world!

Thank you for participating in citizen science!

Turn off the SQM and LED light and return all the materials to the kit, except the data sheet, which you can keep. If you can, continue recording light pollution data while you have the kit and as weather permits.



## LOOKING FOR MORE?

Find more projects on your SciStarter Dashboard: [SciStarter.org/dashboard](https://SciStarter.org/dashboard)

## KIT MATERIALS

