

# The View is Beautiful

Did you know that the stars you see in a constellation are not the same distance away? Many can be hundreds of light years away from each other. We group stars into 88 constellations to help astronomers map objects in the sky.

**What is a light year?** The distance light travels in one year

**How far is a light year?** 5.88 trillion miles

## The Big Dipper

Alkaid

Mizar



Alioth



Megrez



Dubhe



Phecda



Merak

## Directions

1. Cut out the image of the Big Dipper on the dotted lines.
2. Glue the back of the Big Dipper image to your cardboard.
3. Poke one small hole in each of the stars using the thumbtack.
4. Cut toothpicks to match the lengths below and stick them in their matching star. (One toothpick will be full length)
5. Stick a marshmallow on the end of each toothpick.
6. Hang your constellation on your wall and enjoy!

\_\_\_\_\_ Megrez = 58.4 Light Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Merak = 79.7 Light Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Alioth = 81 Light Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Mizar = 82 Light Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Phecda = 83.2 Light Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Dubhe = 123 Light Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Alkaid = 101 Light Years