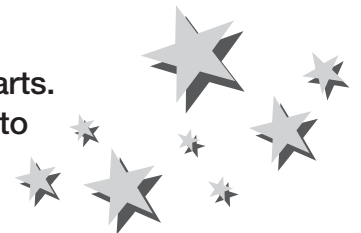
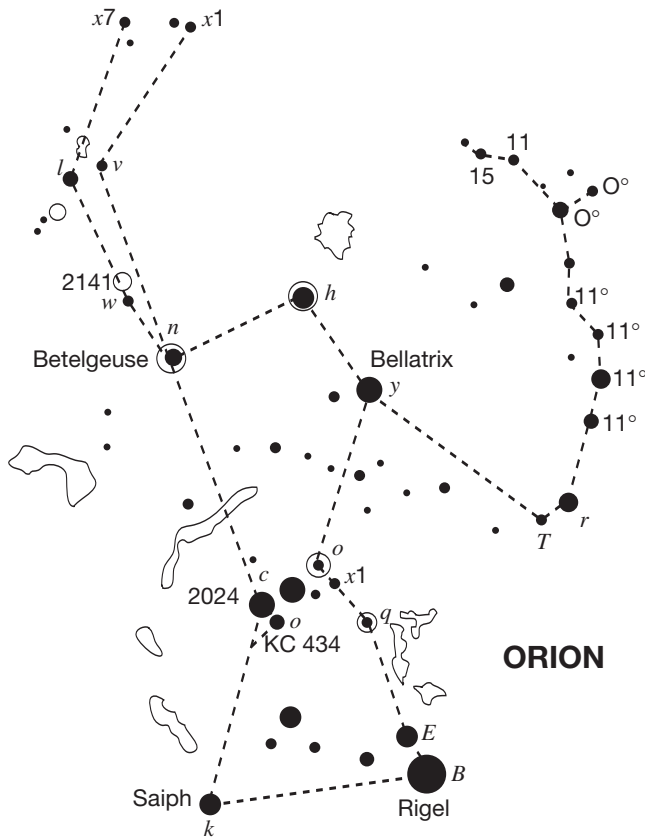


Constellations

Scientists use star charts to break up the night sky into smaller parts. There is a standard way to connect each star to the next in order to show constellations, or star groups. In nearly every star atlas, you will see the constellation Orion drawn as it is below.



Each star on this chart is labelled. The labels show the position of the stars in their small area of sky.



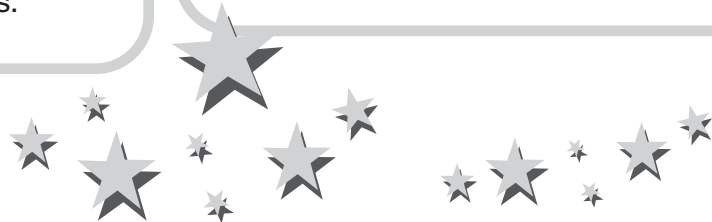
The purpose of finding and naming constellations is to help people remember the position of each of the stars.

In many places around the world, there is not much difference from one season to the next. Farmers can use the changing positions and visibility of the many constellations to tell which season it is and when it is time to plant or harvest their crops. In the days before charts, sailors used the stars' positions to help guide them to their destinations.

The star Betelgeuse is located at Orion's left shoulder. The star called Rigel is Orion's right foot.

There are many myths and legends about each constellation. Poets, farmers and astronomers have been making these stories up for over six thousand years!

Orion is also known as the Great Hunter. Orion is one of the largest constellations in the sky. If you hold your arm out and spread your fingers, you will just be able to cover your view of Orion. This constellation can be seen from late summer to early spring in our part of the world.



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- 1** In our part of the world, one can see the constellation Orion from
- a late winter to early spring.
 - b late spring to early autumn.
 - c late summer to early spring.
 - d late autumn to early summer.
- 2** The star Bellatrix is located at Orion's
- a left arm.
 - b right arm.
 - c left shoulder.
 - d right shoulder.
- 3** A constellation is best defined as
- a an atlas.
 - b a star chart.
 - c an astronomer.
 - d a cluster of stars.
- 4** Which of the following types of writing best describes this selection?
- a legend
 - b narrative
 - c non-fiction
 - d historical fiction

5 How does the star chart help the reader understand this selection? Use specific details and examples from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

6 Why might people compare the location of the stars to a body shape? Use specific details and examples from the selection to support your answer.
