Name: Date: Score: / 8

Seasonal Star Patterns: Learn and Practice

Why the night sky changes over a year

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Constellations

- Constellations are patterns of stars that people have named.
- As Earth orbits the Sun, we see different constellations in different seasons.
- Over one night, stars seem to move across the sky because Earth spins.
- Orion is high on winter nights: hidden on summer nights

1 🌍 Why do we see different constellations in winter and summer?

A. Earth orbits the Sun B. The Moon blocks them
C. Clouds change shape D. Stars move away

2 Why do stars seem to move across the night sky?

A. Clouds push them B. The Moon pulls them
C. Earth spins D. Stars circle Earth

3 🐻 The Big Dipper is part of which larger constellation?

A. Orion B. The Great Bear C. The Swan
D. The Scorpion

4 How long does Earth take to orbit the Sun once?

A. About 1 day B. About 1 month
C. About 10 years D. About 1 year

5 ⭐ Which star stays almost still in the northern sky?

A. The brightest star B. The Moon
C. The North Star D. The Sun

6 ✨ What is a constellation?

A. A named pattern of stars B. A moon
C. A type of cloud D. A single planet

7 Why did people long ago name star patterns?

A. To count planets B. To make stars brighter
C. To move the stars
D. To find their way and track seasons

8 Orion is easy to see on winter nights in Canada. Why is it hard to see in summer?

A. It burns out B. It is up during the daytime
C. It is too cold D. It moves to another galaxy

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about seasonal star patterns.

ANSWER KEY

Seasonal Star Patterns: Learn and Practice (answers)

Why the night sky changes over a year

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 🌍 Why do we see different constellations in winter and summer?

A. Earth orbits the Sun

B. The Moon blocks them

C. Clouds change shape D. Stars move away

As Earth travels around the Sun, our night side faces different parts of space.

2 Why do stars seem to move across the night sky?

A. Clouds push them B. The Moon pulls them

C. Earth spins D. Stars circle Earth

The stars are not racing around us. Earth spinning makes them appear to move.

3 🐻 The Big Dipper is part of which larger constellation?

A. Orion **B. The Great Bear** C. The Swan

D. The Scorpion

The Big Dipper is a group of stars inside the Great Bear constellation.

4 How long does Earth take to orbit the Sun once?

A. About 1 day B. About 1 month

C. About 10 years **D. About 1 year**

One trip around the Sun takes about 365 days, which is one year.

5 ⭐ Which star stays almost still in the northern sky?

A. The brightest star B. The Moon

C. The North Star D. The Sun

The North Star sits almost straight above the North Pole, so it barely moves all night.

6 ✨ What is a constellation?

A. A named pattern of stars B. A moon

C. A type of cloud D. A single planet

People long ago joined stars into pictures and gave them names. Those are constellations.

7 Why did people long ago name star patterns?

A. To count planets B. To make stars brighter

C. To move the stars

D. To find their way and track seasons

Star patterns helped travelers find directions and helped farmers know when seasons were coming.

8 Orion is easy to see on winter nights in Canada. Why is it hard to see in summer?

A. It burns out **B. It is up during the daytime**

C. It is too cold D. It moves to another galaxy

In summer, Orion is on the same side of the sky as the Sun, so daylight hides it.