WHIPPLE MUSEUM OF
THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

STARGAZING:
CREATE A
CONSTELLATION!

Go outside on a starry night and find a set of
stars that look like this:

This is known as the Big Dipper or the Plough – it’s
part of a constellation (group of stars) called the
Great Bear. Here is a 200-year-old picture of the
great bear:

Can you find the set of stars in the picture? (look
at the bear’s tail!) Now look at the sky again. Can
you find the rest of the bear?

If you didn’t have the picture, would you think it
was a bear? What else could it be? Sometimes
people create their own constellations. This star
globe in the Whipple museum collection includes
one named after William Herschel’s telescope: can
you see it?

YOUR CHALLENGE:
INVENT YOUR OWN CONSTELLATION

You can use the Big Dipper/Plough or find
another shape made by stars in the sky.

Draw your constellation and give it a name.
Will you give it your own name or something
else?

If you like you can take a photograph of it and
share it with the Museum at @whipplemuseum.
You can find more globes, telescopes and objects
related to stars by visiting:
https://www.whipplemuseum.cam.ac.uk/
explore-whipple-collections/astronomy