

# Happy Dancing Turtle's Dark Sky Resources



Listen to storytime featuring *There Once Was a Sky Full of Stars* by Bob Crelin, illustrated by Amie Ziner, and *Hello, Mr. Moon!* By Lorna Gutierrez, illustrated by Laura Watkins.

## Resources:

For one week in April, people from all around the world will be celebrating International Dark Sky Week - a week focused on enjoying the darkness, the night skies, and all the things we can see in space by going outside! For more information about the celebration, visit the [International Dark Sky Association website!](#)

If you don't have a **night-sky guide** at home, you can find one online or download an app! [This website has a neat interactive sky guide](#) to use where you can see what your sky would look like at a certain time in a certain place. Our favorite app is [Stellarium](#), which you can use on a phone or download for a computer. If you have [Google Sky Map](#) on your phone, just point your phone in the direction of a star and it will help you identify the constellation!

[Space.com](#) always has updates about what exciting things are coming up to view in the night sky, has sky maps, and much more!

The American Museum of Natural History has a **great website for kids**, including a whole page dedicated to [Astronomy](#)! Go here to learn more about the moon, stars, and space, plus they have stories, videos, and hands-on activities for kids!

## Activities:

**Make your own [Star Wheel](#)!** These are simple to make (if you have a printer) and are great tools to help you identify stars in the night sky! Grab some blankets, hot cocoa and head out on a clear night to look at the stars!

**Star Projectors:** Create your own [Star Projector](#) using a toilet paper tube, paper, pushpins, and a flashlight!

**Sew the Stars!** If you have littles, let your kids get familiar with the shape of major constellations while practicing their fine motor skills with [Star Sewing Cards](#).

**Have a family constellation story night!** Have each family member research a story for a different constellation. You could go outside and share them as you look at the constellation, or use the Free Stellarium software on a computer. Many of the mythology stories we're familiar with come from the Greeks and Romans, but each ancient culture has its own star stories! Have a night of stories from various cultures, such as star stories from the Ojibwe, Inuit, Hawaiian, Chinese, or Arabic cultures!

Keep your own **moon journal**! Study the moon each night for 28 days to see it progress through its cycle. Here is a [moon log](#) that kids can illustrate and turn into a flip book at the end, or just keep your own journal!

