


City Stargazing

July to September
Summer Triangle

Safety

- Make sure you take an adult outside with you
- Remember to wrap up warm.



Do you ever
look up and
wonder at
the twinkling
stars?

People have always marvelled at the night sky. On a clear night, from a dark place, you can see planets, thousands of stars, and the faint wisps of light that are our galaxy the Milky Way. The light from towns and cities makes it harder to make out the stars the night sky. But that doesn't mean we can't stargaze. Let's explore some constellations in the night sky.

When and where

- Wait until a little after the Sun sets so it's dark enough to see the stars. In Summer, you'll have to wait longer for it to be dark enough.
- Pick a spot outside where you can see the most sky, away from streetlights, and without branches or other houses in the way.
- Stand there for a little while and let your eyes get adjusted to the dark.

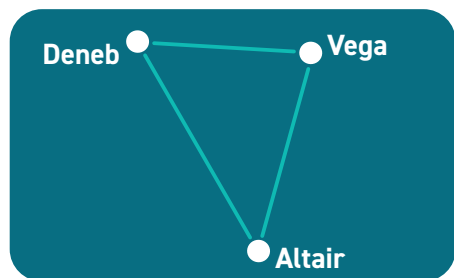
Pictures in the stars

- When you look at the sky you make shapes and drawings with the stars, it's like playing connect the dots!
- Astronomers – scientists who study space – have agreed on 88 official star patterns. We call these official patterns "constellations".



Short summer nights don't make for the easiest stargazing. We need to stay up late, and lighter skies mean only the brightest stars shine through. However, fewer stars mean it's easier to recognise patterns.

To find the **Summer Triangle**, it might help to use a compass. It will always be in the South half of the sky. It might not be exactly this way up.



The Summer Triangle is easily recognisable with three bright stars, pointing to the South. It isn't an official constellation: it's made from the three brightest stars from different constellations.

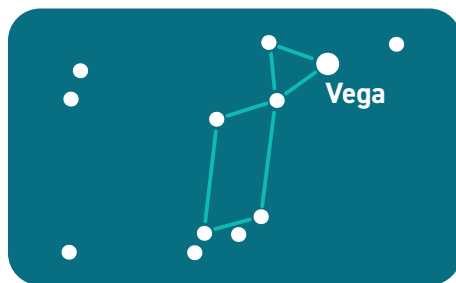
Altair is in the constellation Aquila. This represents an eagle, although some people think it looks like a kite or a stingray.



Deneb is part of the constellation Cygnus. Cygnus is a cross shape, and represents a flying swan. This is the most easily visible of the three constellations.



Vega is found in the constellation of the harp, which is called Lyra. Lyra is the smallest of these three constellations.



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