

## Planisphere Activity

1. Construct a sky wheel, or planisphere, using the materials provided by your instructor.
2. By the date indicated by the instructor, you will need to complete and submit the table below for the current semester. Cross out the other data table.
3. Your observation will need to be at least a half hour in length and you are responsible for determining the best time to make your observations.  
Observation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting time: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending time: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Observe all constellations listed in column A. In column B write the approximate start time the constellation would have first been observable, and in column C write the approximate time the constellation would have set. If, on your star wheel, the constellation is visible at 6 p.m. then the Start time visible is sunset; if visible at 6 a.m. then the End time visible is sunrise. Otherwise indicate the time to the nearest half hour.
5. If you turn the star wheel all the way around and, for our purposes, any of the stars in that constellation are always visible, then that constellation is circumpolar. If so, write the word yes in column D.
6. In column E indicate in what part of the sky the constellation would be visible at 9 p.m., on the date(s) you make your observations, relative to the North Star, Polaris, using one of the following terms: east, southeast, south, southwest, or west. Remember that **no object** in the sky can be north of Polaris. Objects that are closer to the northern horizon than Polaris are **south** of Polaris; objects that are closer to the northeastern horizon than Polaris are **southeast** of Polaris; and objects that are closer to the northwestern horizon than Polaris are **southwest** of Polaris.

Observed Constellations Fall Semester

A	B	C	D	E
Constellation	Start time visible	End time visible	Circumpolar?	Location at 9 p.m. relative to Polaris
Bootes				
Cassiopeia				
Corona Borealis				
Cygnus				
Hercules				
Lyra				
Sagittarius				
Scorpio				
Ursa Major				
Ursa Minor				

Observed Constellations Spring Semester

A	B	C	D	E
Constellation	Start time visible	End time visible	Circumpolar?	Location at 9 p.m. relative to Polaris
Auriga				
Bootes				
Canis Minor				
Cassiopeia				
Gemini				
Leo				
Orion				
Taurus				
Ursa Major				
Ursa Minor				