

# **FIRST ORTHODOX EXPLORERS RELATED RESOURCES**

## **ACTIVITIES & EXPERIMENTS**

### **Stargazing**

In this activity, you can use your eyes, or some binoculars, to look for constellations, just like the wise men would have as they searched for Christ!

Materials:

- Binoculars (optional)
- Weather appropriate clothes
- Dark outdoor area

Procedure:

- Do your research ahead of time, and become familiar with the constellations you can see this time of year. Check out books at the library, or use the Internet with the help of an adult.
- Head outside after dark and look at the stars. You can use a pair of binoculars or a telescope for a better look.
- Write down what you see in your adventure journal!

### **Constellation Geoboards**

Take a snapshot of the night sky by making your own geoboard! Using rubber bands and pins, you can display colorful constellations wherever you'd like.

Materials:

- Geoboard template
- Two sheets of cork
- Small rubber bands

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- Ball head pins
- Mod Podge
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Paint brush

## Procedure:

- Print out your desired template. (Template 2 is easier for younger kids)
- Cut out the template, and use the paint brush to brush Mod Podge on one cork sheet. Then, trim the cork sheet so none shows from behind the template.
- Gently Mod Podge over the top of the template. Dabbing works best. Let it dry.
- Hot glue the second sheet of cork to the bottom of the first, and trim.
- Place pins on the stars, and connect them with rubber bands.

## Three Kings Crowns

Dress like a wise man; make your own crown!

## Materials:

- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers
- Stickers
- Glue
- Glitter

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## Procedure

- Fold the paper plate in half and cut to the inner edge of the paper plate border.
- Unfold, rotate and fold in half three more times, creating eight individual spikes.
- Decorate to your liking.
- Fold the spike upwards, creating a crown shape. Enjoy!

## SNACKS

### **Magi Munchies**

Recreate the gifts of the magi- in snack form!

#### Ingredients:

- Gold chocolate coins
- Dried apricots
- Raisins
- Powdered sugar

#### Directions:

- Quarter the dried apricots and dust with powdered sugar (frankincense).
- Add raisins (myrrh) and gold chocolate coins (gold).
- Enjoy!

# FIRST ORTHODOX EXPLORERS RELATED RESOURCES

## BOOKS

### **Orthodox**

Title: The Nativity of Christ

Author: Elena Trostnikova

Summary: A narrative explaining the Nativity gospel, geared towards younger kids, with examples of traditional Christmas celebrations.

Grade Level: Pre-K - 5

Title: Celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas: A Family Devotional in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition

Author: AmandaEve Wigglesworth

Summary: A resource for celebrating the Christmas season through the lens of the Orthodox faith.

Grade Level: K+

### **Scientific**

Title: Zoo in the Sky

Author: Jacqueline Mitton

Summary: Beautifully illustrated book that describes constellations, as well as where and when to find them in the night sky.

Grade Level: K - 3

Title: Inside Stars

Author: Andra Serlin Abramson & Mordecai-Mark Mac Low

Summary: Book about stars and how they form. Includes activities and fold out pages.

Grade Level: 3 - 6

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## BOOKS

Title: Seeing Stars

Author: Sara Gillingham

Summary: Comprehensive guide to all constellations. Includes maps and stargazing tips.

Grade Level: 3 - 5

Title: The Stars

Author: Gemma McMullen

Summary: Simple book about stars and constellations.

Grade Level: 1 - 2

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## SONGS

Title: Christ is Born

YouTube Channel/Artist: Rocko's Music Factory - Topic

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrdxGy3Ding&list=RDSrdxGy3Ding&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrdxGy3Ding&list=RDSrdxGy3Ding&start_radio=1)

Title: Get Ready

YouTube Channel/Artist: Rocko's Music Factory - Topic

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQKxQ0lef4o&list=RDNQKxQ0lef4o&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQKxQ0lef4o&list=RDNQKxQ0lef4o&start_radio=1)

Title: Giving Again

YouTube Channel/Artist: Rocko's Music Factory - Topic

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQzuD-neArs&list=RDUQzuD-neArs&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQzuD-neArs&list=RDUQzuD-neArs&start_radio=1)

Title: Bethlehem's Joy

YouTube Channel/Artist: Gigi Baba Shadid

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLGSAf-XW5s&list=RDGLGSAf-XW5s&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLGSAf-XW5s&list=RDGLGSAf-XW5s&start_radio=1)

Title: Make Ready O Bethlehem

YouTube Channel/Artist: Gigi Baba Shadid

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1loHXh-iaE&list=RDk1loHXh-iaE&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1loHXh-iaE&list=RDk1loHXh-iaE&start_radio=1)