

Constellations

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Chapter One:
What is a constellation?



A constellation is a grouping of stars that has an **apparent** form or pattern.

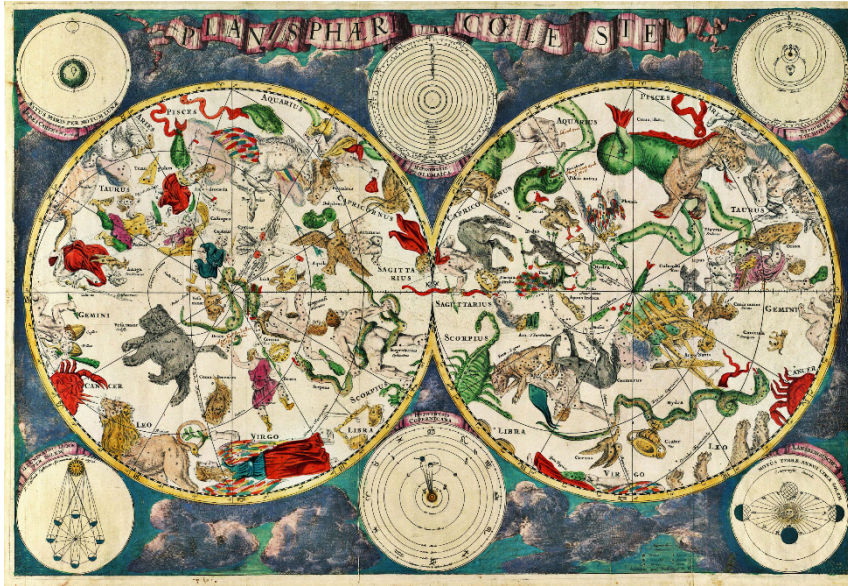


There are a ton of different constellations that fill the sky. Astronomers usually divide the sky into 88 different constellations.

Out of the 88 constellations there are several that people commonly recognize or have heard of. These Constellations include:

- The Big Dipper (Ursa Major)
- The Little Dipper (Ursa Minor)
- Orion
- The **Astrological** signs
 - Aquarius
 - Pisces
 - Aries
 - Taurus
 - Gemini
 - Cancer
 - Leo
 - Virgo
 - Libra
 - Scorpio
 - Sagittarius
 - Capricorn

Chapter Two: Constellations and their Mythological Stories



Constellations are commonly named after the shape they create in the sky or a **mythological** creature.

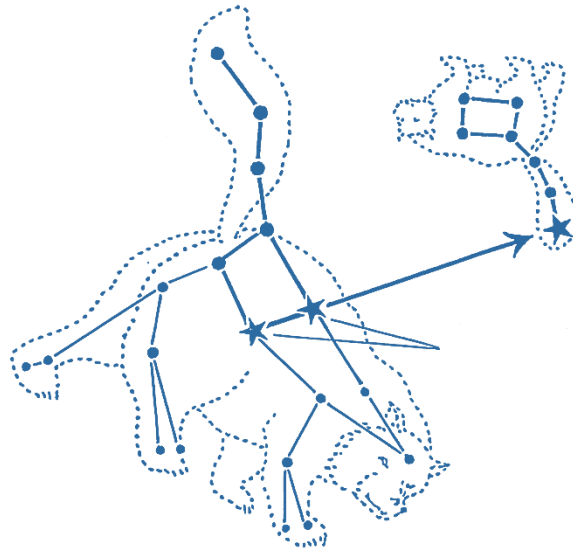
The Little and Big Dippers



The Little Dipper is a part of the constellation Ursa Minor, or the Little Bear. It contains **Polaris**, which is the name for the North Star.

The Big Dipper is a part of the constellation Ursa Major, or the Great Bear.

The Mythological Story



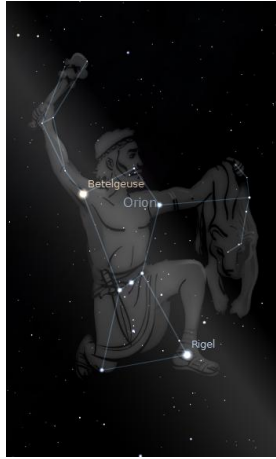
It is said that Zeus fell in love with another woman and his jealous wife turned her into a bear (Ursa Major). Her son was a hunter and not knowing it was his mom tried hunting her. Zeus then turned her son into a bear to protect her (Ursa Minor) and grabbed them both by the tails and threw them into the sky, tangling their tails together.

Orion



The three stars in the middle of Orion are known as Orion's Belt. The belt is made of three very bright stars making it easy to see.

The Mythological Story



It is said that Orion was a great hunter. In order to impress the earth goddess he brought her what he had caught. This made her happy. Liking the result he went on a hunting spree and brought a mountain of animals to her. The earth Goddess was very upset that he was hunting all of the earth animals so she sent a giant scorpion after him to scare him. This is why it's said that Orion is running from the constellation Scorpius.

Which of these are Real Constellations?

Constellations	Yes	No
Aries	X	
The Great Frog		X
Orion	X	
Ursa Minor	X	
Capricorn	X	
June Burst		X
Camelot's Belt		X
Ursa Major	X	
The Little Elephant		X

Questions

1. What is Polaris?
2. How many constellations are there?
3. What is a constellation?
4. [True or False] The Big Dipper is a part of Ursa Minor
5. [True or False] Ursa Major and Ursa Minor are bears
6. [True or False] Orion was a hunter

Glossary

Apparent: Clearly visible or understood

Astrological: Astrology, The study of the position of planets and stars to explain human behavior.

Mythological: Related to or based on a myth.

Polaris: The scientific name of the North Star.

Common Core State Standards

RI.1.1 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text

RI.1.5 Know and use text features (headings, tables of contents, glossaries) to locate key facts or information in a text

RF1.1 Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print

Works Referenced

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