

Constellations

Let's Get Some Background Information

- Read the short paragraph “Constellation” and answer the 4 questions.
- Then, see if you can match the constellation names to their pictures in “Pictures in the Night Sky”.
- Be ready to share out!

Now let's look a little deeper...

- [Click here](#) to watch “All of the Constellations in HD”!
- Take notes on the back of your “Stars” note sheet.
 - You can bullet new information OR
 - You can make a T-chart of what you already knew and what you learned OR
 - You can make a chart of what you knew, what you were wrong about, and new questions you have....

CONSTELLATIONS



Constellations

- What do we already know about constellations?
- Which ones can we name?

Constellations

- Ancient Greeks, Romans, and other people who lived long ago found patterns, or shapes, made by stars in the night sky.
- These star patterns are called constellations.
- There are 88 official constellations.

SHORT FORM:

- **Ancient people found patterns made by stars-called constellations-88 official ones**

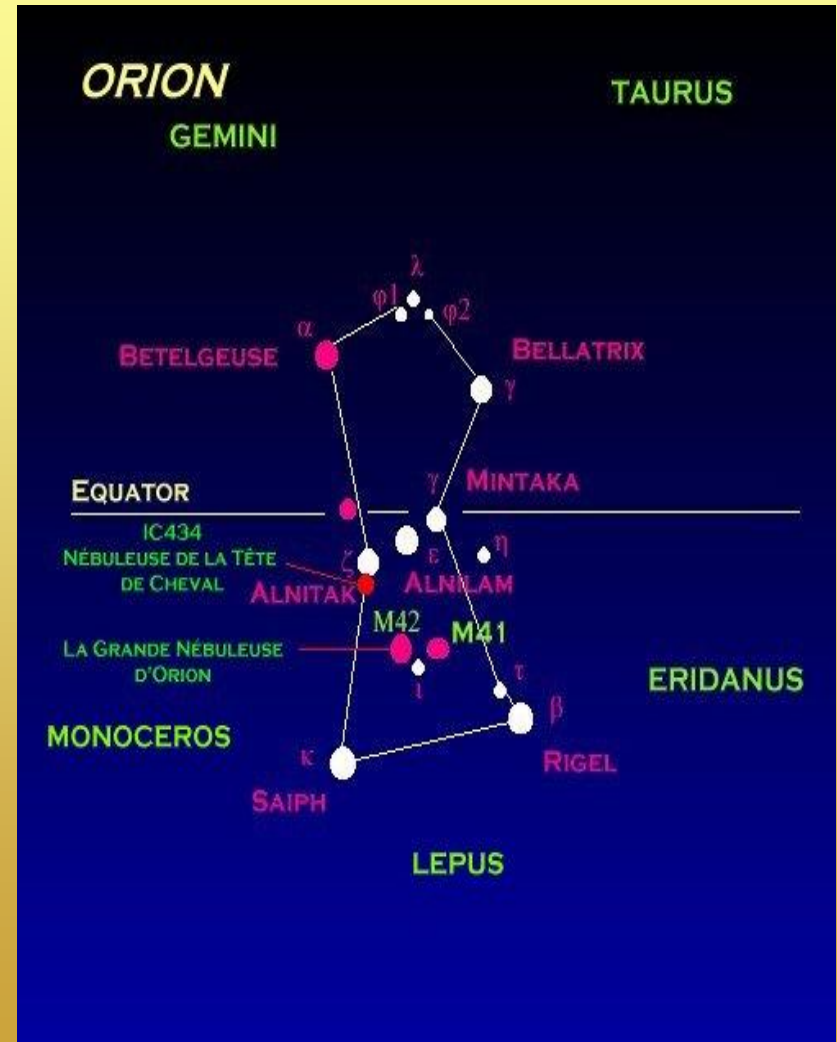
Orion

- *A great hunter*



Orion

- In the Southern sky in autumn, WINTER, and spring
- His head points to Polaris
- Look for his belt – 3 bright stars in a straight line



Ursa Major

- The great Bear



Ursa Major

- Do you see a common “constellation” in Ursa Major?



Ursa Major

- Seen all year round (circumpolar)
- Best seen in **SPRING**
- The big dipper is part of Ursa Major



Cygnus

- The swan



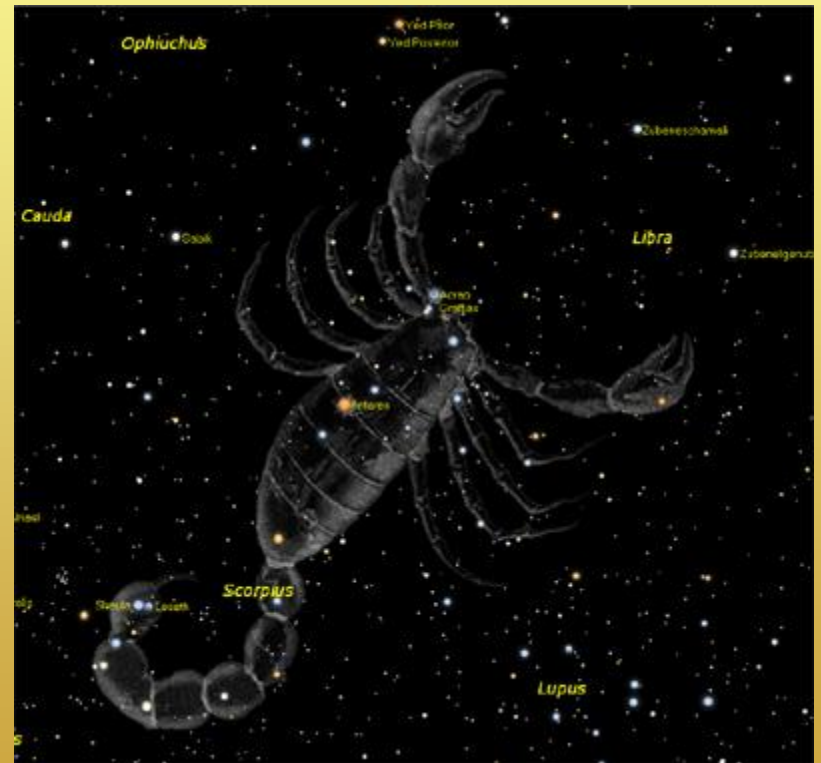
Cygnus

- Located in the Milky Way
- Best seen in SUMMER and FALL
- Follow inner cup of Big Dipper to tail of Cygnus
- Deneb, the brightest star in Cygnus, is the tail!



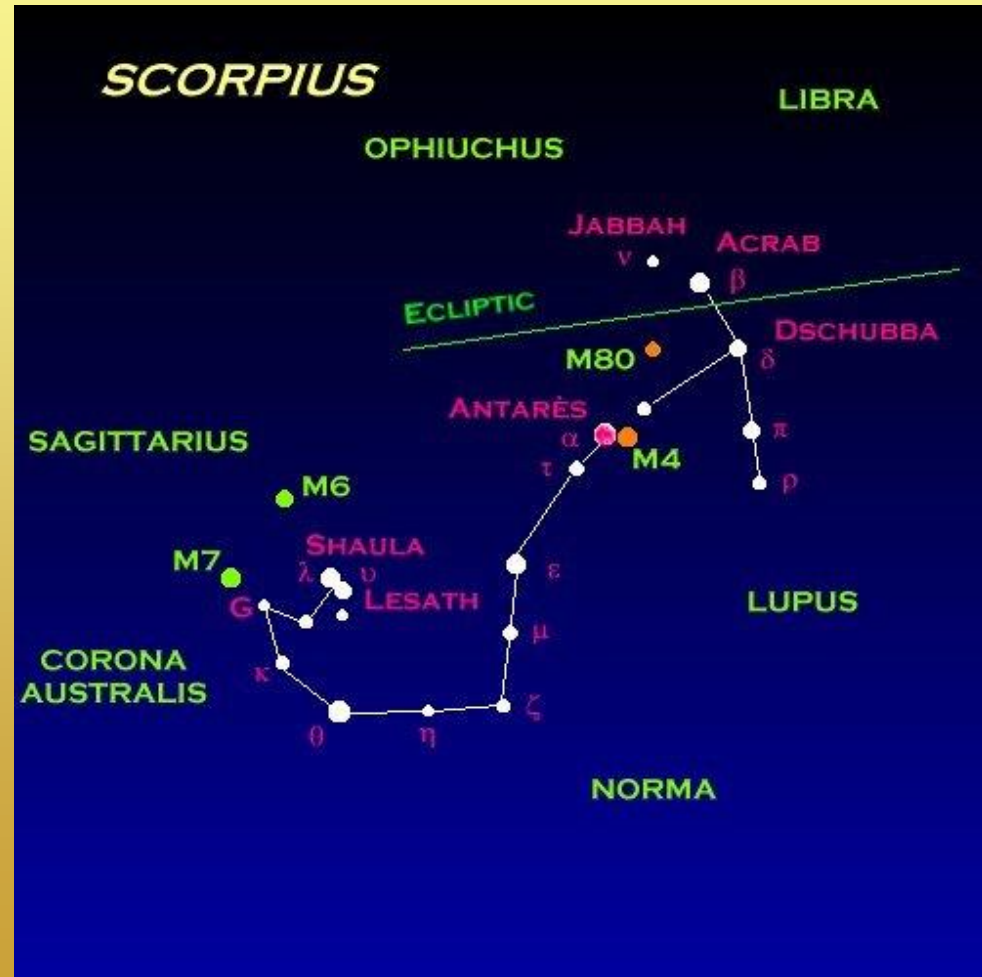
Scorpius

- The scorpion



Scorpius

- Sits low along the southern horizon
- Best seen in **SUMMER**
- Tail **NOT** visible to most northern latitudes



Cassiopeia

- Female figure- possibly a queen



Cassiopeia

- Seen all year round (circumpolar)
- Found in Milky Way
- 1/2 year looks like an “M”; the other 1/2 year looks like a “W”



Constellations

- Why do you think people created Constellations?
- Talk with your group!