

Constellation

Early Greeks noticed that the stars seem to form patterns that make it easy to describe directions or areas of the sky. With a little imagination, groups of stars became pictures. We call these "pictures" constellations. Ptolemy named 48 different groups of stars (mainly characters from Greek mythology). In time, other astronomers added forty more so now every star is part of a constellation. The sky is divided into sections called northern, equatorial (over the equator), and southern. The constellations give astronomers a kind of map of the stars, making it easier to locate any one of them!

1. What is a constellation?

2. How do constellations make it easier to locate stars?

3. Name the three sections the sky is divided into:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. How many constellations are there?

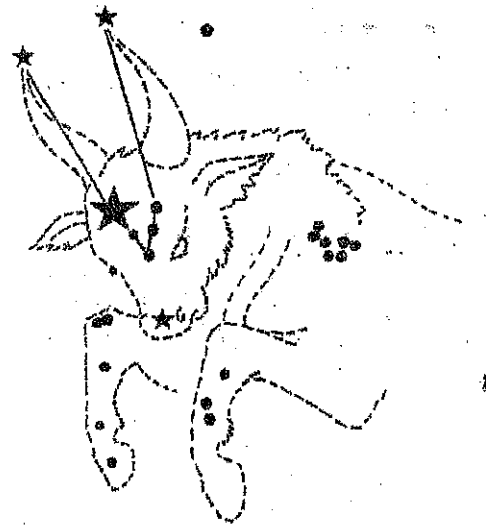
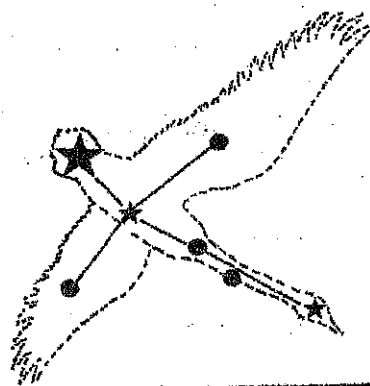
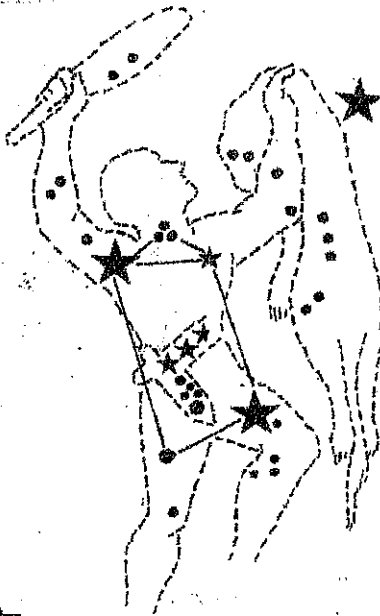
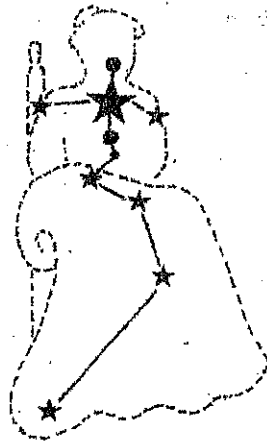
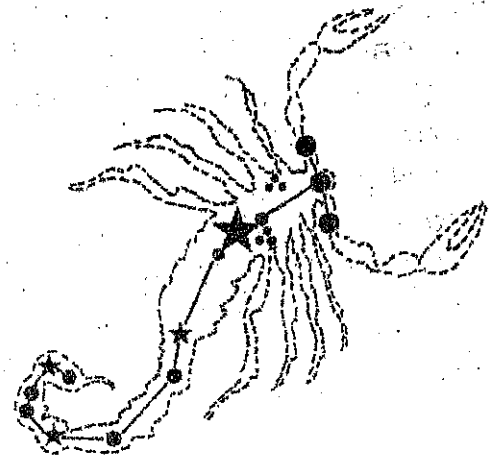
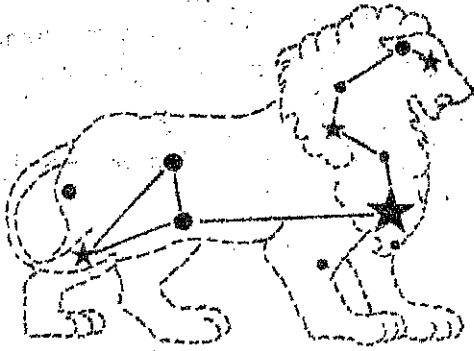
_____ constellations

Pictures in the Night Sky

Name _____

For thousands of years people from every culture have gazed into the night sky and imagined groups of stars outlining a picture. These star pictures, called **constellations**, are like giant dot-to-dot puzzles in the night sky.

Name these well-known constellations.



WORD BANK

Orion
Scorpio

Cygnus
Taurus

Leo
Cassiopeia