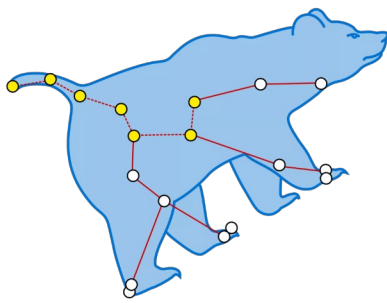
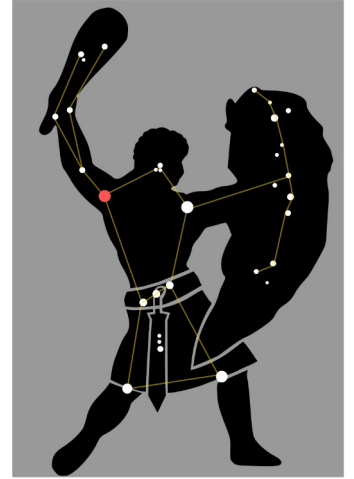


Constellations

Ancient people looked at the stars and imagined that they looked like animals or mythological creatures or people from their stories.

Most ancient cultures had names and stories about the stars, but the ones we use today have specific origins.

In the northern hemisphere, most of the constellations were named by the ancient Greeks, so we have constellations like Pegasus, Orion the hunter, and the Great Bear (Ursa Major).



Many of the names for the southern constellations were introduced by European scientists of the 1500s, 1600s, and 1700s who had begun sailing south on exploration ships, so these have names like Telescopium (the telescope) and Circinus (the compass).

The International Astronomical Union decided to recognize a list of 88 constellations in the early 1900s and we still use these today.



In this activity, you can create your own constellations or copy some of the known constellations