

## Urania's Mirror (London, 1825)

Constellation figures, as in this boxed set of 32 constellation cards, make the constellations memorable and easier to learn. Each card illustrates one or a few constellations. Holes punched in the positions of bright stars allow one to hold any card up to a light and compare the star pattern with the constellation figure. The constellations include several no longer recognized today.

Urania, the Muse of Astronomy, appears on the cover of the box. This is the first edition. Subsequent editions included stars outside the boundaries of the featured constellations. The creator of the cards remains a mystery. In a companion book providing a simple introduction to the night sky, Jehoshaphat Aspin explains only that the constellation cards "were designed by a lady." The constellation figures were based upon the Celestial Atlas of Alexander Jamieson, published in 1822.


## Things to do

1. Choose a card with a constellation that seems interesting to you.
2. Color your constellation.
3. Does your constellation include any star names?
4. Do you know any stories, mythology, poetry or music that refer to your constellation?
5. Does your constellation hold any meaning in your culture and heritage, or to those who have lived in places you have been?
6. Have you ever seen your constellation represented in jewelry, works of art, the movies, or other forms of media?
7. Compare your constellation with a list of the 48 constellations recognized by Ptolemy in the 2nd century AD. Is your constellation included? If not, when and by whom was it invented?
8. Compare your constellation with a list of the 88 constellations officially recognized today. Is your constellation currently recognized?
9. Punch holes in the brightest stars. Then hold the card up to the light to see the star pattern. Compare the star pattern with the constellation figure. How much imagination is necessary to see the figure in the star pattern?
10. Punch holes in 2 pieces of cardstock set underneath the constellation card to make the star pattern without a traditional constellation figure.

- Look at the star pattern and imagine a figure from
a favorite story that it might represent.
- Sketch your own brand-new constellation figure.

10. Find your constellation on a planisphere, a star chart, or a celestial globe.
11. Location: Does your constellation contain the celestial equator? If so, and if it is not shown on your card, draw it in. Determine whether your constellation is equatorial, or whether it falls north or south of the celestial equator.
12. Zodiac: Does your constellation contain the ecliptic? (The ecliptic is the annual path of the Sun.) If so, it is a zodiac constellation. If the ecliptic is not shown on your card, draw it in.
13. Season: According to a planisphere, during which season is your constellation most prominent in the evening sky?
14. Does your constellation include any interesting stars, nebula, galaxies or other deep-sky objects visible in a telescope? If so, draw them in.
15. Have you ever seen your constellation in the night sky? Look for a skywatch opportunity.

| Constellations included in Urania's Mirror (London, 1825) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \# | Constellation | Location | Season | Zodiac? |
| 1 | Andromeda |  |  |  |
| 2 | Antinous, the Slave of Hadrian (with Delphinus) |  |  |  |
| 3 | Antlia Pneumatica the Air Pump (with Noctua) |  |  |  |
| 4 | Apparatus Sculptoris, the Tools of the Sculptor (with Cetus) |  |  |  |
| 5 | Aquarius the Water Carrier |  |  |  |
| 6 | Aquila the Eagle (with Delphinus) |  |  |  |
| 7 | Aries the Ram |  |  |  |
| 8 | Auriga the Charioteer |  |  |  |
| 9 | Boötes the Herdsman |  |  |  |
| 10 | Camelopardalis the Giraffe |  |  |  |
| 11 | Cancer the Crab |  |  |  |
| 12 | Canes Venatici the Hunting Dogs (with Boötes) |  |  |  |
| 13 | Canis Major the Big Dog |  |  |  |
| 14 | Canis Minor the Little Dog (with Monoceros) |  |  |  |
| 15 | Capricornus the Sea-Goat |  |  |  |
| 16 | Caput Medusae, the Head of the Medusa (with Perseus) |  |  |  |
| 17 | Cassiopeia the Queen of Ethiopia |  |  |  |
| 18 | Cepheus the King of Ethiopia |  |  |  |
| 19 | Cetus the Sea Monster |  |  |  |
| 20 | Coma Berenices the Hair of Berenice (with Boötes) |  |  |  |
| 21 | Corona Australis the Southern Crown (with Sagittarius) |  |  |  |
| 22 | Corona Borealis the Northern Crown (with Hercules) |  |  |  |

Constellations included in Urania's Mirror (London, 1825)

| \# | Constellation | Location | Season | Zodiac? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 23 | Corvus the Crow (with Noctua) |  |  |  |
| 24 | Crater the Cup (with Noctua) |  |  |  |
| 25 | Custos Messium, the Harvest Keeper (with Camelopardalis) |  |  |  |
| 26 | Cygnus the Swan (with Lacerta) |  |  |  |
| 27 | Delphinus the Dolphin |  |  |  |
| 28 | Draco the Dragon |  |  |  |
| 29 | Equuleus the Little Horse (with Pegasus) |  |  |  |
| 30 | Felis the Cat (with Noctua) |  |  |  |
| 31 | Gemini the Twins |  |  |  |
| 32 | Gloria Frederici, in honor of Frederick II of Prussia (with Andromeda) |  |  |  |
| 33 | Hercules |  |  |  |
| 34 | Hydra the Water Snake (with Noctua) |  |  |  |
| 35 | Lacerta the Lizard |  |  |  |
| 36 | Leo Major the Big Lion (or just Leo the Lion) |  |  |  |
| 37 | Leo Minor the Little Lion (with Leo Major) |  |  |  |
| 38 | Lepus the Hare (with Canis Major) |  |  |  |
| 39 | Libra the Balance |  |  |  |
| 40 | The Lynx |  |  |  |
| 41 | Lyra the Harp (with Lacerta) |  |  |  |
| 42 | Machina Electrica, the Electrostatic Generator (with Cetus) |  |  |  |
| 43 | Monoceros the Unicorn |  |  |  |
| 44 | Musca Borealis, the Southern Fly (a.k.a. "Apes," with Aries) |  |  |  |

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| \# | Constellation | Location | Season | Zodiac? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 45 | Noctua the Owl |  |  |  |
| 46 | Officina Chemica, the Chemical Apparatus (with Cetus) |  |  |  |
| 47 | Officina Typographica, the Printing Press (unlabeled, with Monoceros) |  |  |  |
| 48 | Orion the Hunter |  |  |  |
| 49 | Pegasus the Flying Horse |  |  |  |
| 50 | Perseus |  |  |  |
| 51 | Pisces the Fishes |  |  |  |
| 52 | Sagitta the Arrow (with Delphinus) |  |  |  |
| 53 | Sagittarius the Archer |  |  |  |
| 54 | Scorpio the Scorpion |  |  |  |
| 55 | Scutum the Shield (with Serpentarius) |  |  |  |
| 56 | Serpentarius (or Ophiuchus) the Snake Handler |  |  |  |
| 57 | Serpens the Snake (with Serpentarius) |  |  |  |
| 58 | Sextans the Sextant (with Noctua) |  |  |  |
| 59 | Tarandus the Reindeer (with Camelopardalis) |  |  |  |
| 60 | Taurus the Bull |  |  |  |
| 61 | Taurus Poniatowski, the Bull of the King of Poland (with Serpentarius) |  |  |  |
| 62 | Triangula, the Triangle (with Andromeda) |  |  |  |
| 63 | Ursa Major the Big Bear |  |  |  |
| 64 | Ursa Minor the Little Bear (with Draco) |  |  |  |
| 65 | Virgo the Maiden |  |  |  |
| 66 | Vulpecula and Anser (The Fox and the Goose, with Lacerta) |  |  |  |

## 48 Constellations of Ptolemy

Andromeda
Aquarius the Water Carrier
Aquila the Eagle
Ara the Altar
Argo Navis, the Ship of the Argonauts
Aries the Ram
Auriga the Charioteer
Boötes the Herdsman
Cancer the Crab
Canis Major the Big Dog
Canis Minor the Little Dog
Capricornus the Sea-Goat
Cassiopeia the Ethiopian Queen
Centaurus the Centaur
Cepheus the Ethiopian King
Cetus the Sea Monster
The Claws (Libra)

Corona Australis the
Southern Crown
Corona Borealis the
Northern Crown
Corvus the Crow
Crater the Cup
Cygnus the Swan
Delphinus the Dolphin
Draco the Dragon
Equuleus the Little Horse
Eridanus the River
Gemini the Twins
Hercules
Hydra the Water Snake
Leo the Lion
Lepus the Hare
Lupus the Wolf

Lyra the Harp
Ophiuchus the Snake Handler
Orion the Hunter
Pegasus the Flying Horse
Perseus
Pisces the Fishes
Piscis Austrinus the
Southern Fish
Sagitta the Arrow
Sagittarius the Archer
Scorpius the Scorpion
Serpens the Snake
Taurus the Bull
Triangulum the Triangle
Ursa Major the Big Bear
Ursa Minor the Little Bear
Virgo the Maiden

Which Ptolemaic constellations are not included in Urania's Mirror?

## 88 Modern Official Constellations

Check off the constellations included in your card set. Does your card set contain any constellations that are no longer recognized?

Andromeda
Antlia the Air Pump
Apus the Bird of Paradise
Aquarius the Water Carrier
Aquila the Eagle
Ara the Altar
Aries the Ram
Auriga the Charioteer
Boötes the Herdsman
Caelum the Chisel
Camelopardalis the Giraffe
Cancer the Crab
Canes Venatici the Hunting Dogs
Canis Major the Big Dog
Canis Minor the Little Dog
Capricornus the Sea-Goat
Carina the Keel of Argo Navis
Cassiopeia the Queen of Ethiopia
Centaurus
Cepheus the King of Ethiopia
Cetus the Sea Monster
Chameleon
Circinus the Drawing Compass
Columba the Dove
Coma Berenices, Berenice's Hair
Corona Australis the
Southern Crown
Corona Borealis the Northern Crown
Corvus the Crow
Crater the Cup

Crux the Southern Cross
Cygnus the Swan
Delphinus the Dolphin
Dorado the Swordfish
Draco the Dragon
Equuleus the Little Horse
Eridanus the River
Fornax the Furnace
Gemini the Twins
Grus the Crane
Hercules
Horologium the Pendulum Clock
Hydra the Water Snake
Hydrus the Southern Water Snake
Indus the American Indian
Lacerta the Lizard
Leo the Lion
Leo Minor the Little Lion
Lepus the Hare
Libra the Balance
Lupus the Wolf
The Lynx
Lyra the Harp
Mensa the Table Mountain
Microscopium, the Microscope
Monoceros the Unicorn
Musca the Fly
Norma the Carpenter's Square
Octans the Octant
Ophiuchus the Snake Handler

Orion the Hunter
Pavo the Peacock
Pegasus the Flying Horse
Perseus
Phoenix
Pictor the Painter's Easel
Pisces the Fishes
Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish
Puppis the Stern of Argo Navis
Pyxis the Magnetic Compass
Reticulum the Net
Sagitta the Arrow
Sagittarius the Archer
Scorpius the Scorpion
Sculptor, the Sculptor's Workshop
Scutum the Shield
Serpens the Snake
Sextans the Sextant
Taurus the Bull
Telescopium, the Telescope
Triangulum, the Triangle
Triangulum Australe the Southern T.
Tucana the Toucan
Ursa Major the Big Bear
Ursa Minor the Little Bear
Vela the Sail of Argo Navis
Virgo the Maiden
Volans the Flying Fish
Vulpecula the Fox

## Recommended resources



Chet Raymo, 365 Starry Nights A read-aloud orientation to the constellations in astronomy, literature and skylore


Michael E. Bakich, The Cambridge Guide to the Constellations Handy reference information for every constellation


Julius D.W. Staal, The New Patterns in the Sky
Skylore from around the world combines astronomy and mythology
iBook Store: Galileo's World Exhibit Guide App store: StarWalk \& SkySafari Pro



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## History of Science Collections University of Oklahoma Libraries



## Galileo's World exhibition

galileo.ou.edu



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BOOTMS, CANES VFNATICIANDCOMA BFREMICES。




CANIS MKSJOR AND LIPUS.


CAPRICOBINTS











LACERTA. CYGNUS, LYRA, VULPECULA AND ASTER.





DIONOCEROS. CASTIS IVITYOB.











