

Orion the Hunter

This constellation is named after a character from Greek mythology. It is one of the most well-known constellations, easily recognizable by the belt of Orion, three bright stars that appear in a row. Surrounding the belt are four bright stars representing the hunter's body. Orion includes well-known stars such as Betelgeuse, a massive red supergiant star nearing the end of its life, and Rigel, the sixth brightest star in the night sky.

Ursa Major the Great Bear

Ursa Major is Latin for Great Bear and is one of the most well-known constellations in the northern night sky. Ursa Major's seven brightest stars form the shape of a saucepan, known as the Big Dipper or Plough. When star shapes within a constellation are known in their own right, this is called an asterism. Ursa Major contains Messier 81 Galaxy, which is 12 million light years away.

Ursa Minor & Polaris or North Star

Polaris is the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor. If you stand at the North Pole you will see Polaris directly above you. Other stars and planets appear to move with the rotation of the Earth but Polaris seems to stay in the same place. This has made Polaris an important navigation tool for explorers and sailors and a fixed point for astronomers to use as measurement.

Draco

Draco is one of the largest constellations in the night sky. Draco means dragon in Latin and it represents Ladon, the dragon that guarded the gardens of the Hesperides in Greek mythology. Draco contains several famous deep sky objects including the Cat's Eye Nebula and the Spindle and Tadpole Galaxies. The Tadpole Galaxy has a long tail!

Pegasus

Pegasus is the name of the winged horse in Greek mythology. The constellation is made up of a square of four stars with others surrounding it. There have been 201 stars discovered within Pegasus but how many you can see depends on the visibility.

Taurus the Bull

Some constellations are named after signs of the zodiac. In the Northern hemisphere these include Taurus and Gemini. Taurus was named after the Greek word for bull. Currently 248 stars have been discovered in the Taurus constellation but only 19 are visible without a telescope.

Gemini the Twins

This constellation looks like twins holding hands in the night sky and has two main bright stars, Castor and Pollux. In Greek mythology Castor and Pollux were twin half-brothers. Their mother was called Leda. Castor was the mortal son of the king of Sparta. Pollux was the immortal son of Zeus, who came to Leda in the form of a swan.

Canis Major

In Greek mythology Canis Major represents Laelaps, the dog belonging to Zeus. Canis Major contains Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, and known as the dog star.

Glow Constellations