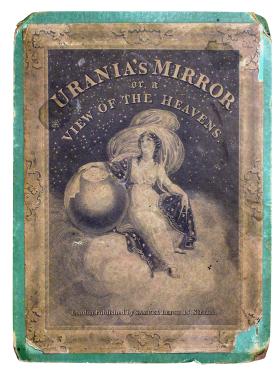


## Urania's Mirror (London, 1825)

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.



Courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries

### 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 <i>Urania's Mirror</i> (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 <i>Urania's Mirror</i> (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)					

Constellations included in <i>Urania's Mirror</i> (London, 1825)						
#	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

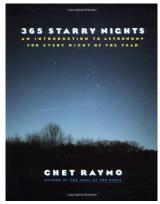
Telescopium, the Telescope Triangulum, the Triangle

Triangulum Australe the Southern T.

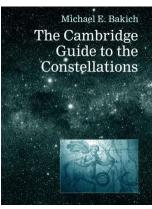
Tucana the Toucan Ursa Major the Big Bear Ursa Minor the Little Bear Vela the Sail of Argo Navis

Virgo the Maiden
Volans the Flying Fish
Vulpecula the Fox

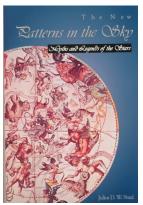
# Recommended resources



**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

David Chandler Planisphere



#### OU Academy of the Lynx

Collaborating in exhibit-based learning.

Download open educational resources in the "Constellations" series from <u>oulvnx.org</u>





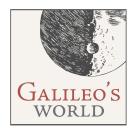
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Galileo's World exhibition





