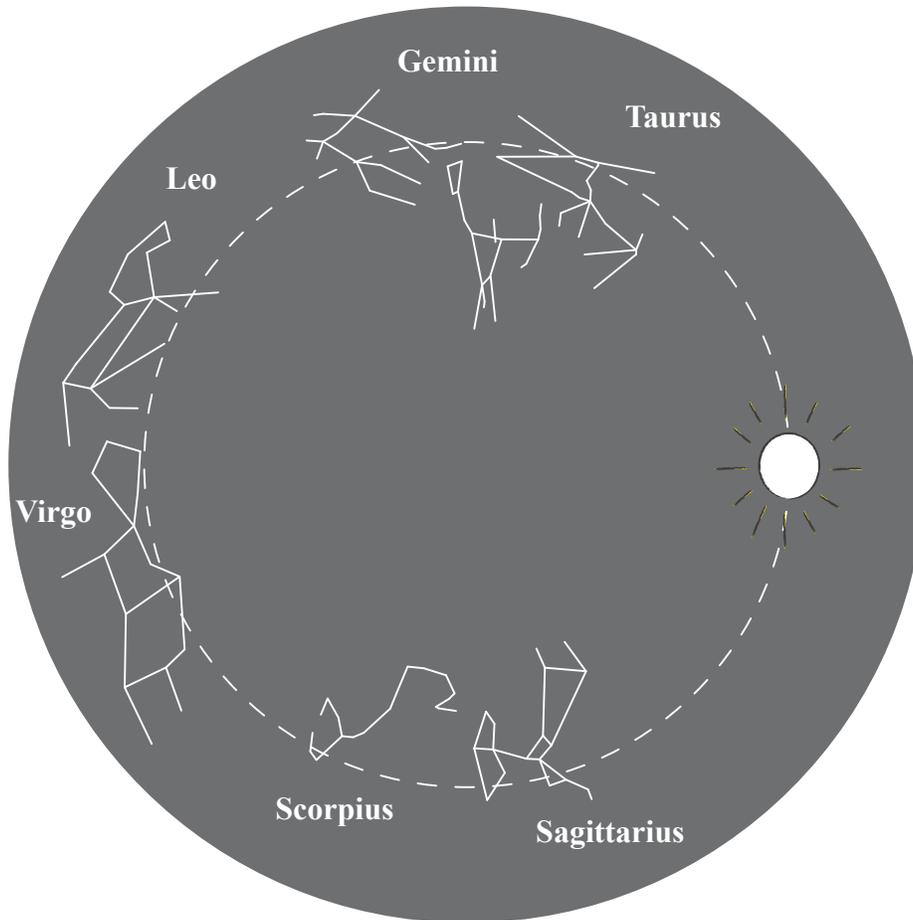


## The Zodiac

A dozen of the constellations hold a special place in human history. Astrologers have claimed that each person has a “sign” that corresponds to one of the twelve constellations. Personality traits and fortunes are said to be determined by a person’s sign.

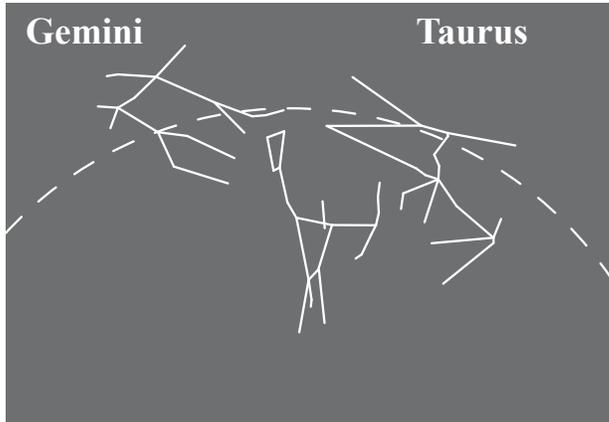
The astronomical basis for assigning the signs is simple. Since the stars move faster than the Sun by two hours per month (four minutes per day), a different constellation moves behind the Sun each month. The constellation that is just about to move behind the Sun on the day a human is born becomes that person’s zodiac sign.

The same 12 constellations take turns going behind the Sun every year. They are called the **zodiac constellations** since many have animal names. We’ve already met 6 of them in our Four Stories, and they’re shown on the next page.



Here are the 6 zodiac constellations that we know so far. Orion is not counted in the zodiac because the Sun actually passes over his head and not directly through him.

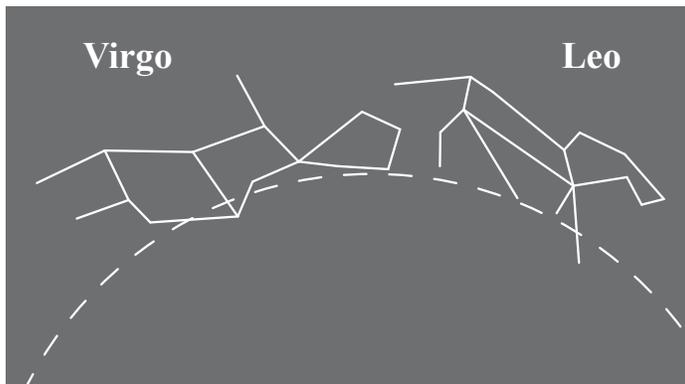
Let's take a closer look at the zodiac constellations that we already know.



**Zodiac near Orion: Taurus and Gemini**

Near Orion you'll find two zodiac constellations: Taurus and Gemini.

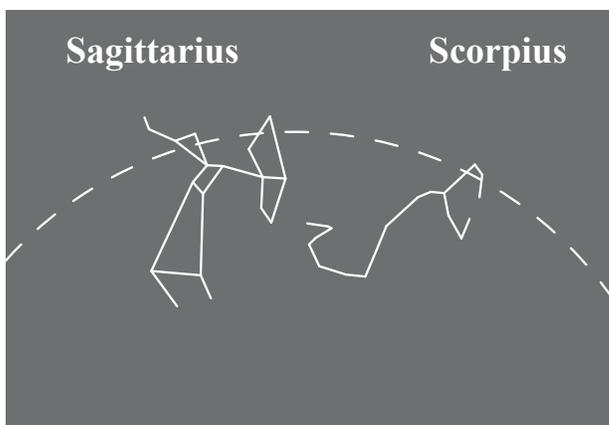
The Sun passes above Orion through the top of the Bull's head and through the waists of the Twins.



**Zodiac near the Big Dipper: Leo and Virgo**

In the Big Dipper's part of the sky, the Sun passes through the Lion and the Virgin, making them part of the zodiac.

The Sun passes almost directly in front of Regulus (Leo's front foot) and just over the top of Spica (Virgo's bottom).



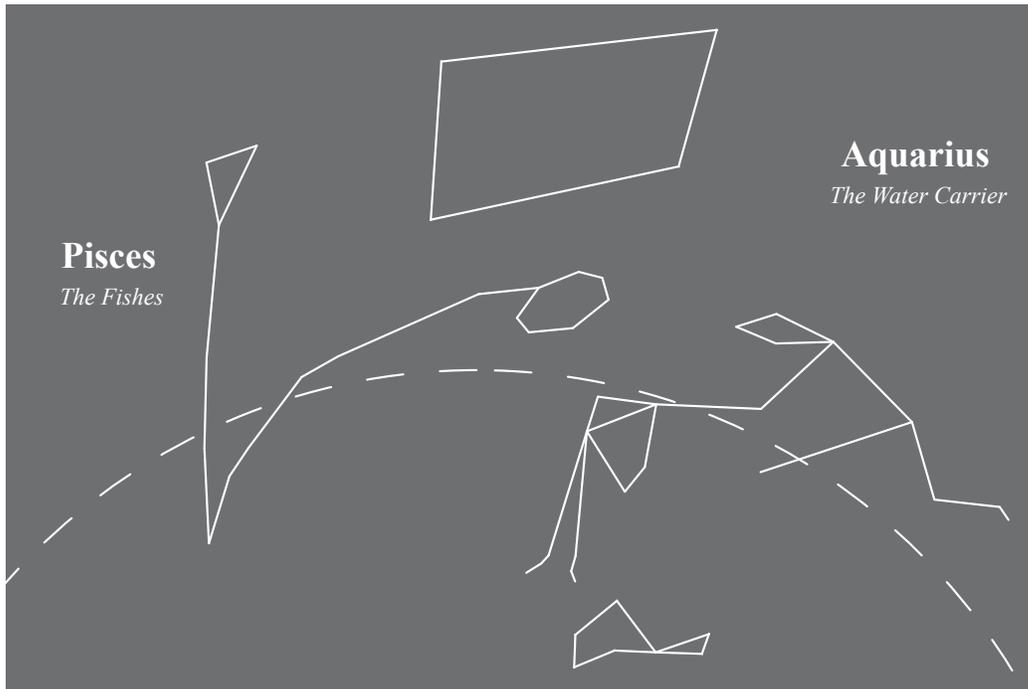
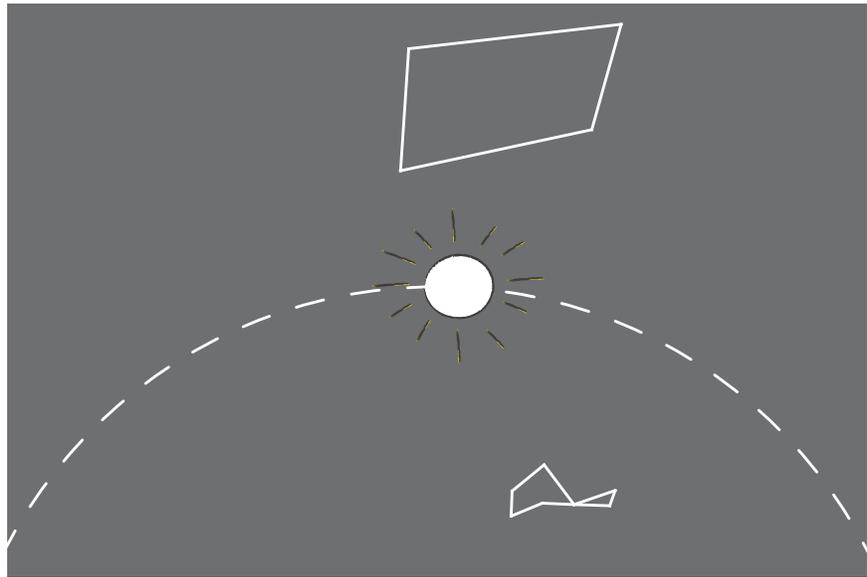
**Zodiac near Cygnus: Scorpius and Sagittarius**

Near the Swan, the zodiac constellations are Scorpius and Sagittarius.

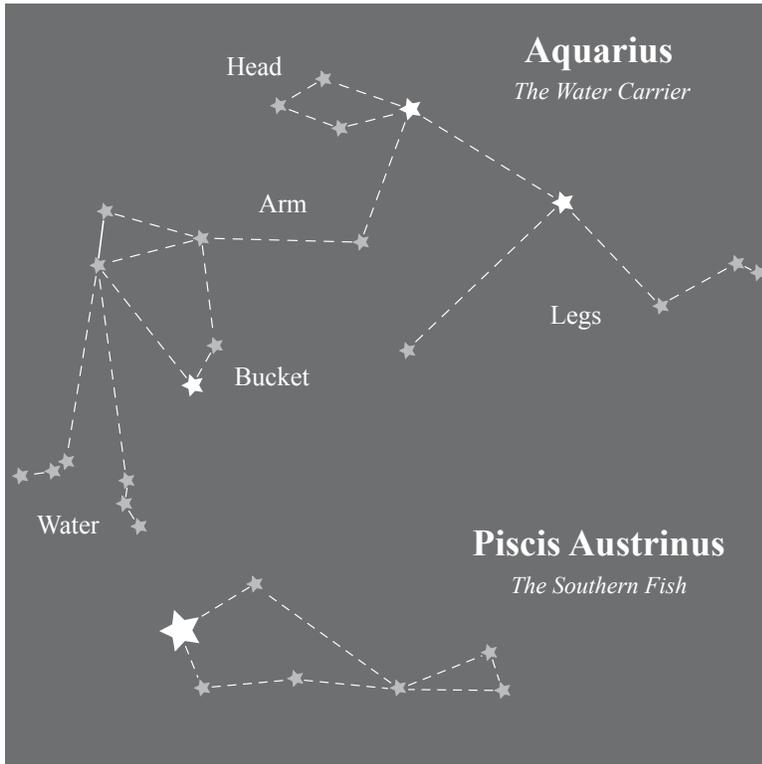
The Sun passes through the top claw of the Scorpion and through the top of the Archer's bow and head.

There are also zodiac constellations near the last Guidepost, Cassiopeia, but they have no bright stars and are not easy to see.

When the Sun passes through this area, it goes right between the Great Square and the Southern Fish.



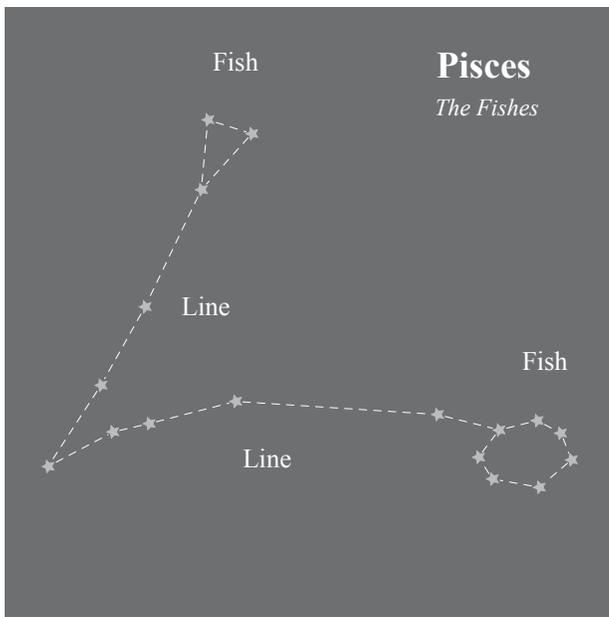
The zodiac constellations between the Great Square and the Southern Fish are Aquarius *The Water Carrier* and Pisces *The Fishes*.



Aquarius *The Water Carrier* is in the shape of a man running with a bucket. Some water spills out of the front of the bucket and streams down toward the mouth of the Southern Fish.

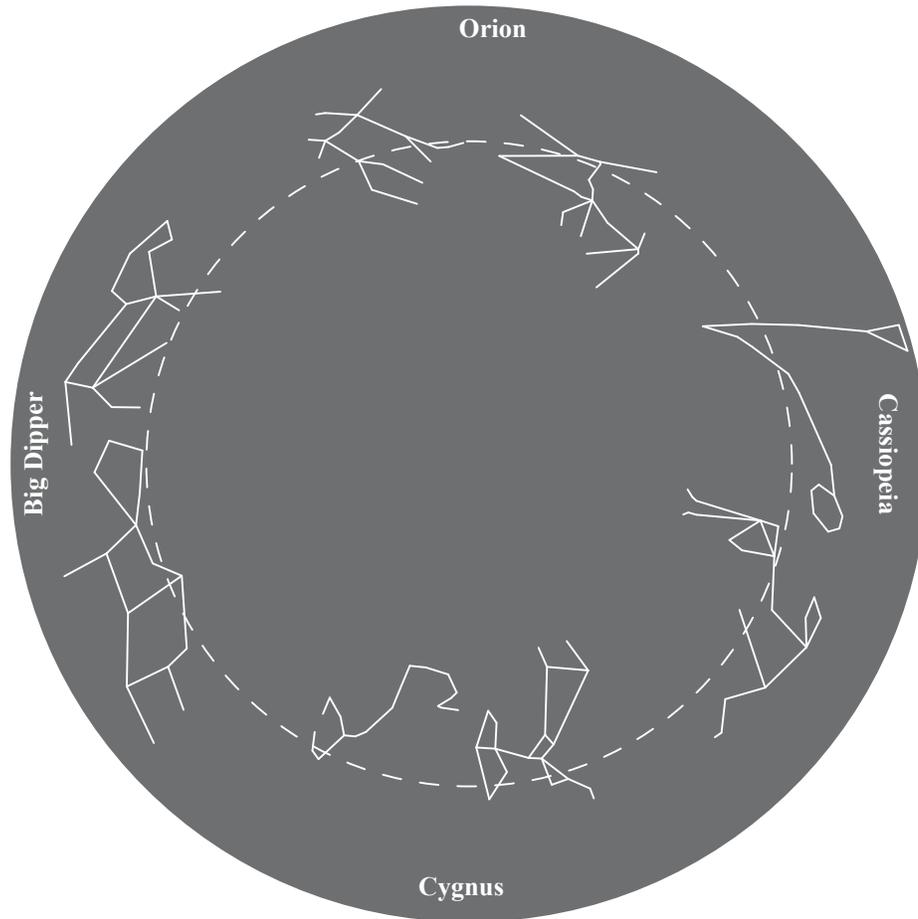
The Sun passes through the arm and front leg of Aquarius.

You may see the stars that mark the neck, waist, and the front bottom of the bucket. The rest of the stars are pretty dim.



Pisces *The Fishes* is represented by two fish caught on lines. None of the stars in Pisces are very bright, so this sprawling constellation is difficult to spot and not very satisfying.

The Sun passes near the joined ends of the fishing lines.

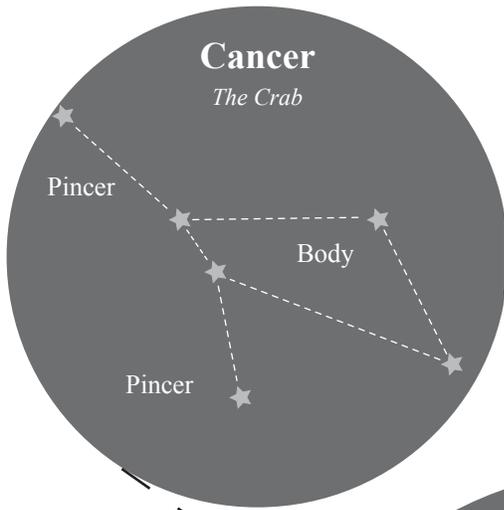


Now we have eight zodiac constellations, two for each Guidepost:

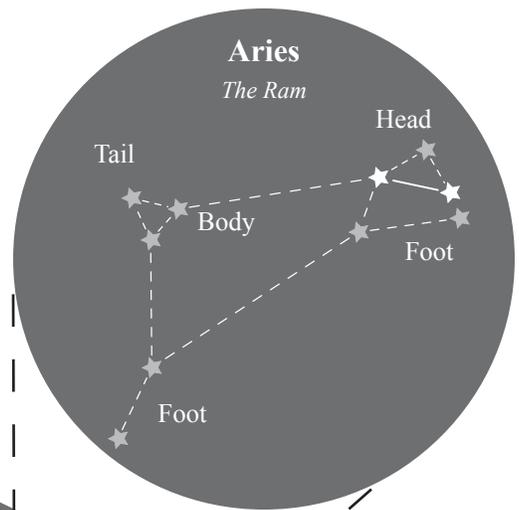
Orion has Taurus and Gemini  
The Big Dipper has Leo and Virgo  
Cygnus has Scorpio and Sagittarius  
Cassiopeia has Aquarius and Pisces

In order to have one for each of the twelve months, we need four more.

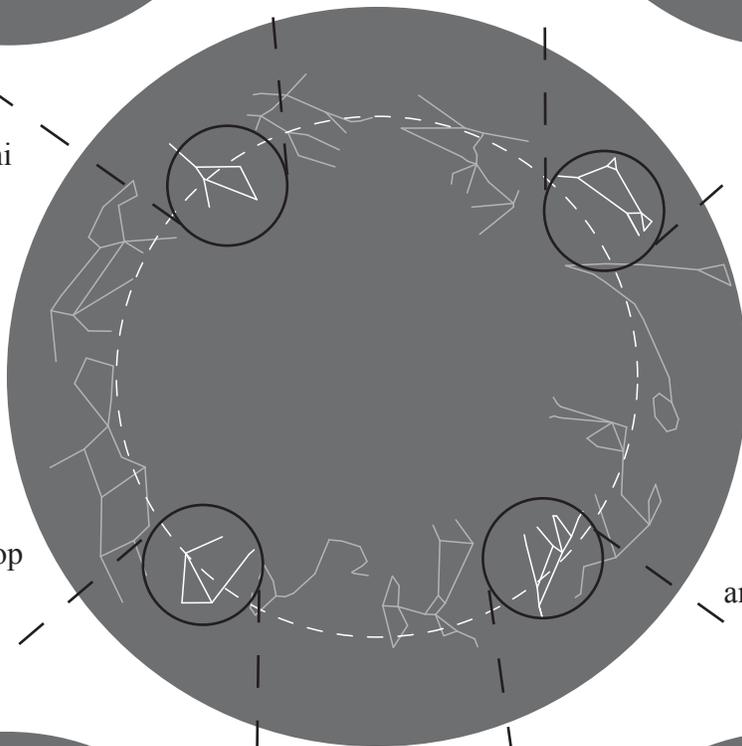
The next four just happen to fit nicely in the gaps between the pairs we already have.



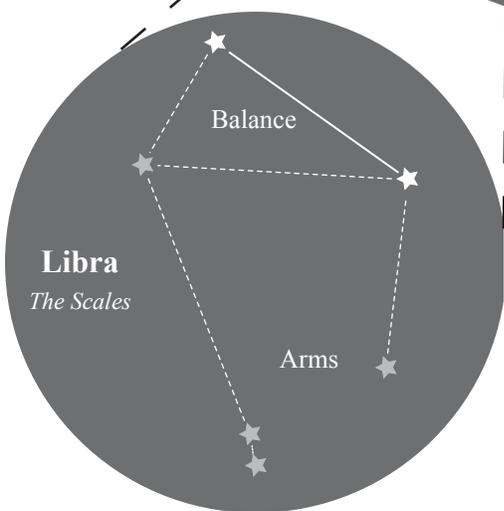
**Cancer** *The Crab*  
fits between Gemini  
and Leo. It has no  
bright stars.



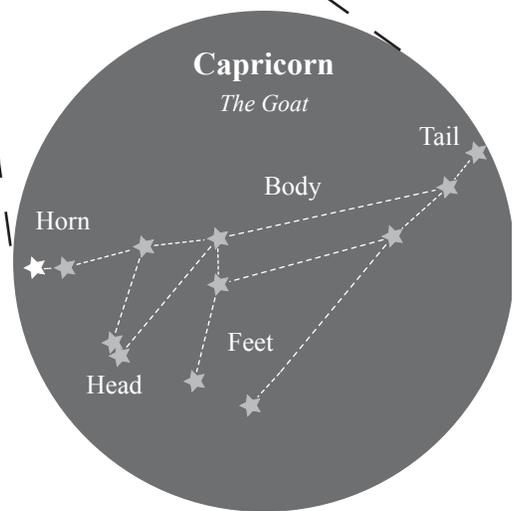
**Aries** *The Ram*  
fits between  
Pisces and Taurus.  
It has bright stars  
marking its nose  
and neck.



**Libra** *The Scales*,  
between Virgo and  
Scorpio, has bright  
stars marking the top  
of the balance and  
the top of one arm.



**Capricorn** *The Goat*  
fits between Sagittarius  
and Aquarius. One bright  
star marks its  
horn tip.



This concludes our journey through the zodiac constellations.

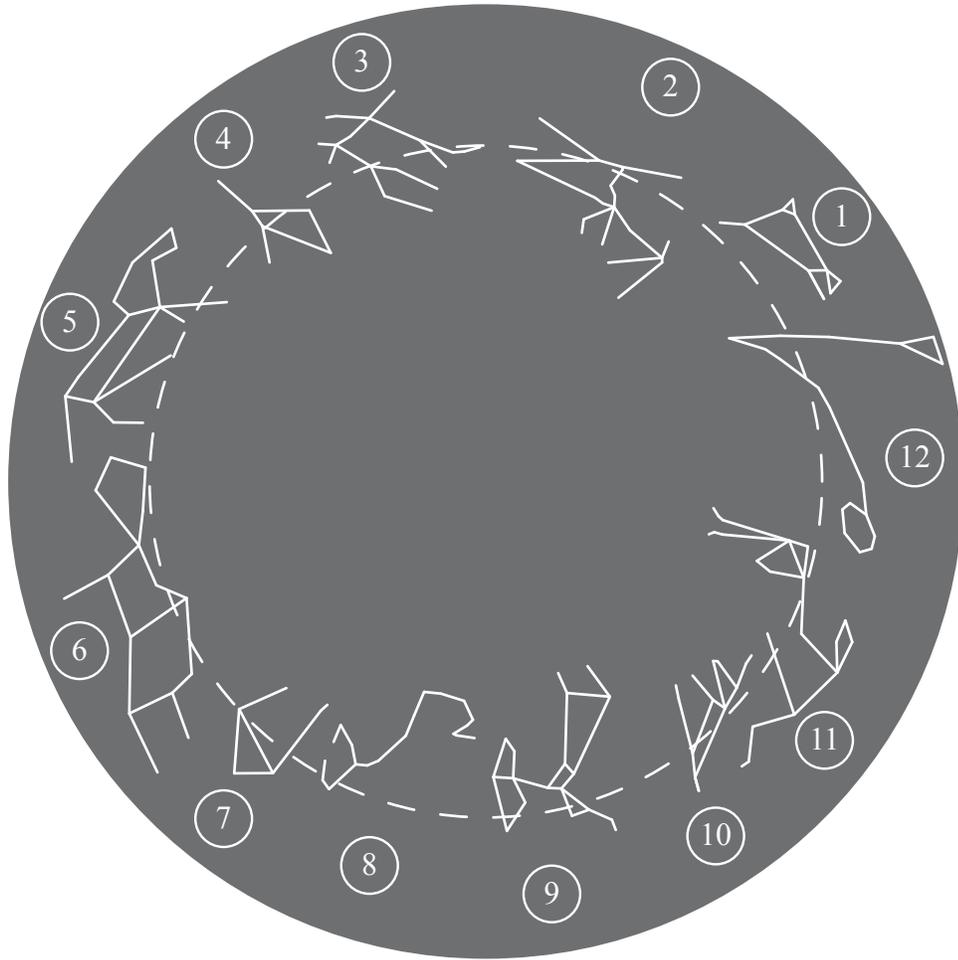
We've seen the six constellations that we can see near three of our Guidepost constellations: Orion has Gemini and Taurus, Big Dipper has Virgo and Leo, Cygnus has Sagittarius and Scorpio.

Our fourth Guidepost, Cassiopeia, has two constellations that are difficult to spot: Pisces and Aquarius.

The constellations Cancer, Aries, Capricorn and Libra filled in the spaces between our Guideposts.

We know that the stars that are just about to move behind the Sun on the day you were born is your zodiac constellation. The next time someone asks you "What's your sign?", you'll be able to answer with confidence!

The Zodiac



**Name the Zodiac Constellations:**

- ① \_\_\_\_\_
- ② \_\_\_\_\_
- ③ \_\_\_\_\_
- ④ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑤ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑥ \_\_\_\_\_

- ⑦ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑧ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑨ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑩ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑪ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑫ \_\_\_\_\_

The Stars

