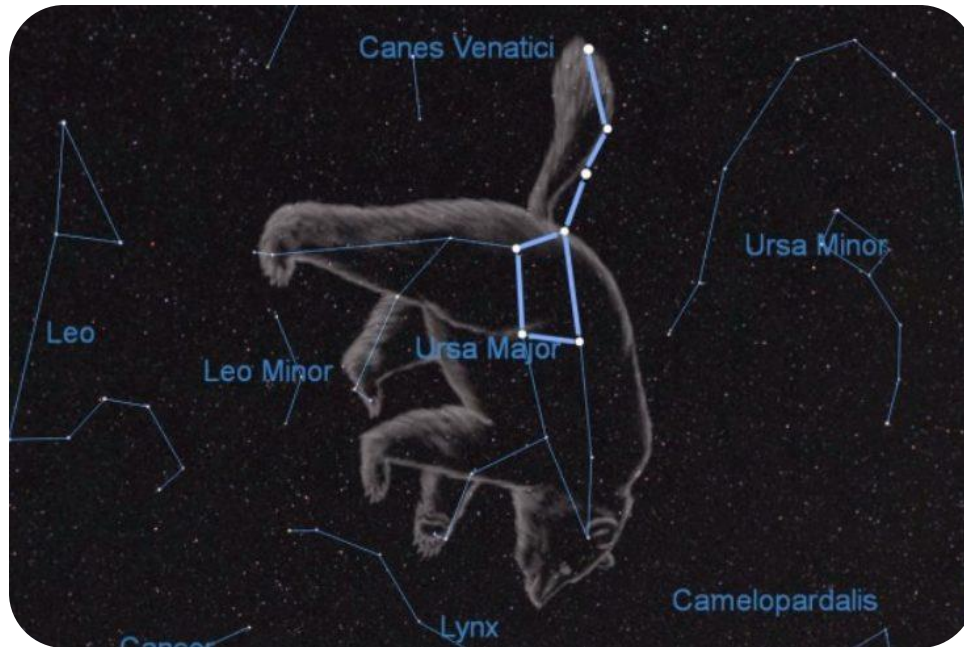


# Greek Mythology

## Creatures and Constellations



### Book List:

1. Homer's the Iliad and the Odyssey  
- Several abridged versions available
2. What We See in the Stars: An Illustrated Tour of the Night Sky Hardcover – by Kelsey Oseid
3. Demigods and Monsters; Your Favorite Authors on Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series
4. Stories in the Stars: An Atlas of Constellations - by Susanna Hislop
5. Greek Mythology stories for kids: Mythical Creatures of the Greek Myths (Tales, Pegasus, Griffin and Centaur) - by David M Pike
6. The Beasts of Olympus Series - by Lucy Coats

### Website References:

<https://www.greekmythology.com/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Greek\\_mythological\\_creatures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Greek_mythological_creatures)

<https://greekgodsandgoddesses.net/creatures/>

[https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellations\\_list.php](https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellations_list.php)

**Typhon** was the last son of GAIA, fathered by Tartarus, he was known as the “Father of All Monsters”. Instead of a human head, a hundred dragon heads erupted from Typhon's neck and shoulders. His wife **Echidna**, half woman half snake, was likewise the “Mother of All Monsters.”

Together, Echidna and Typhon raised some of the most well known monsters and creatures in all mythology.

**Orthrus.** A fearsome two-headed hound that lived with giants

**Sphinx.** A half human, half lion who would slay anybody who did not answer her riddles. When Oedipus was able to answer a riddle correctly, she jumped into the ocean in a fit of rage and drowned.



**Nemean Lion.** A gigantic lion with impenetrable skin that eventually became the star constellation Leo.

**Cerberus.** This well-known monster was a three-headed dog that guarded the entrance to Hades.



**Ladon.** A serpentine dragon that guarded the golden apples in the Garden of the Hesperides.

**Lernaean Hydra.** An ancient serpent-like water monster with reptilian traits and many heads that multiplied if they were cut off.



**Caucasian Eagle.** An eagle that every day ate the liver of Prometheus.

**Chimera.** A monstrous fire-breathing hybrid creature with the body of a lion, the head of a goat, and a tail with a snake's head.



## *Cyclops*



One-eyed giants, Cyclops were great craftsmen, though beastly and savage. The most famous cyclops story was that of Polyphemus when he was tricked by Odysseus.

## *Centaur*



Centaur's were half man/ half horse creatures, followers of Dionysus, given to their primal instincts. The most well know and considered the most civilized centaur was Chiron, who was incredibly wise and a tutor and advisor to heroes like Hercules, Achilles and Jason.

## *Sirens*



Sirens were said to be the friends of Persephone that were with her when she was kidnapped by Hades. The Siren's song is a sad tune that calls to Persephone, but entices sailors and lures them to their deaths. Though modern tales depict them as mermaids, the original Sirens of Greek Mythology had bird-like features.

## *Minotaur*



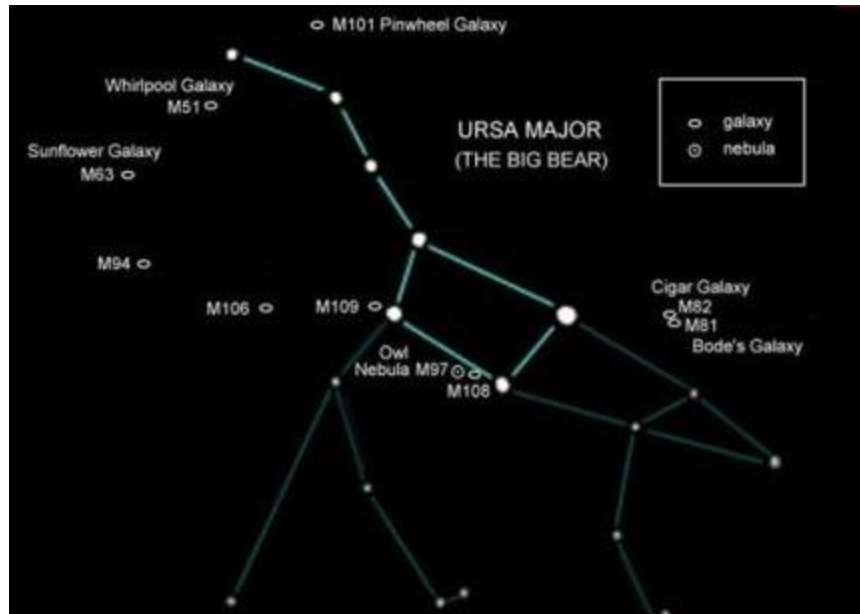
The Minotaur, half man/ half bull, lived in the Labyrinth, a maze under the palace of Crete. King Minos would sacrifice young men and women to the Minotaur every seven years, until he was finally killed by Theseus.

## Medusa



Medusa was a girlfriend of Poseidon. Athena and Poseidon had always had a rocky relationship, so it wasn't a big surprise that she cursed his girlfriend. But maybe Athena was a bit harsh with Medusa, giving her snakes for hair and a look that would literally turn men to stone. Medusa was tracked down by many men because of her monstrous appearance, but Perseus was the one who defeated her.

## Ursa Major and the Big Dipper



<https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellation.php?id=85>

The story of the Great Bear begins with Callisto, one of Zeus' girlfriends. Hera, Zeus' wife was very jealous, and Zeus turned Callisto into a bear to protect her from Hera.

The Big Dipper is part of the constellation Ursa major. It is very easy to spot in the night sky, resembling a giant ladle, or spoon.

## Ursa Minor/ the Little Dipper



<https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellation.php?id=86>

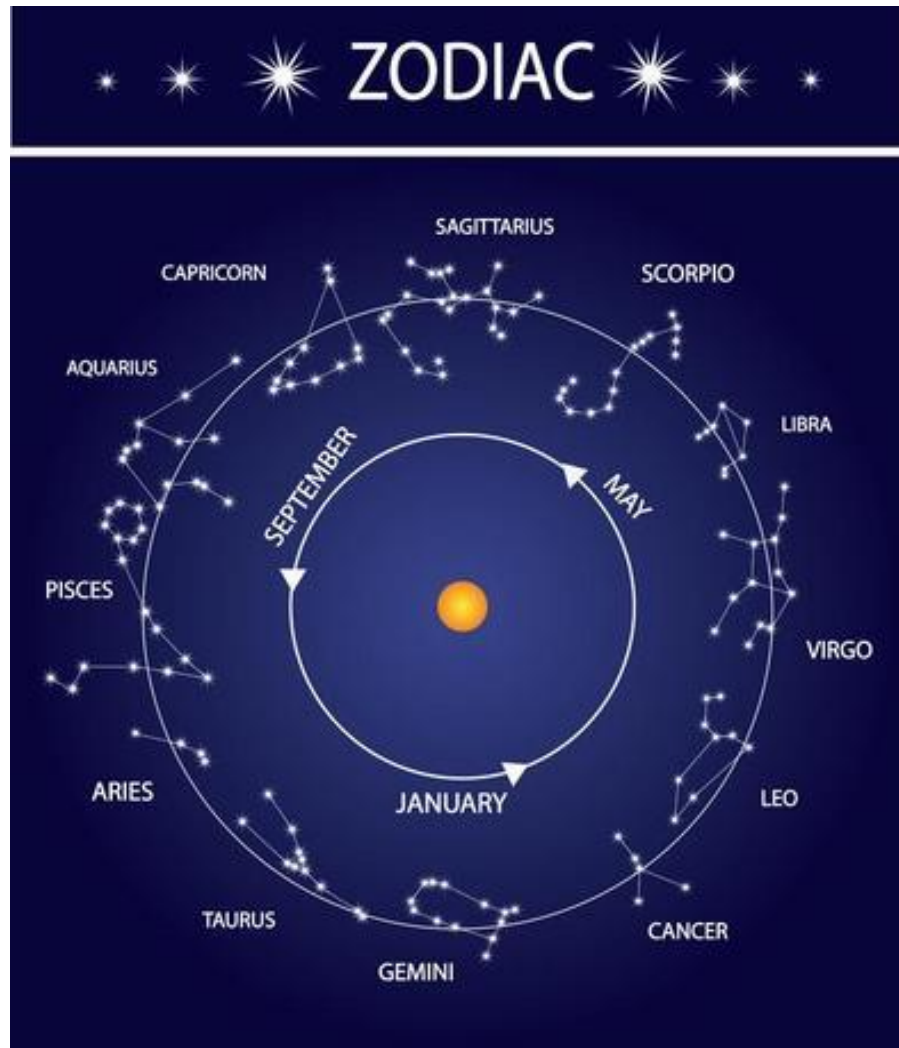
Two different stories are told about the Lesser Bear. One story is that he is the son of Callisto, the Great Bear. The other story is it represents one of the nymphs that raised Zeus as a baby. Also called the Little Dipper because it resembles a smaller ladle or spoon, the tail of the bear/ tip of the spoon is the star, Polaris or the North Star.



# The Zodiac

As the Earth orbits the sun, different stars appear in the night sky during different times of the year. This is how the signs of the Zodiac were made. It is believed by some that the sign or constellation you were born under determines your fate.

<https://www.igreekmythology.com/greek-zodiac.html>



Zodiac Sign	Dates of Birth	Symbol
<b>Aries</b>	March 21 <sup>st</sup> – April 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Ram
<b>Taurus</b>	April 20 <sup>th</sup> – May 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Bull
<b>Gemini</b>	May 21 <sup>st</sup> – June 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Twins
<b>Cancer</b>	June 21 <sup>st</sup> – July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Crab
<b>Leo</b>	July 23 <sup>rd</sup> – August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Lion
<b>Virgo</b>	August 23 <sup>rd</sup> – September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Virgin
<b>Libra</b>	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> – October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Scales
<b>Scorpio</b>	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> – November 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Scorpion
<b>Sagittarius</b>	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> – December 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Archer
<b>Capricorn</b>	December 22 <sup>nd</sup> – January 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Goat
<b>Aquarius</b>	January 20 <sup>th</sup> – February 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Water Bearer
<b>Pisces</b>	February 19 <sup>th</sup> – March 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Fishes

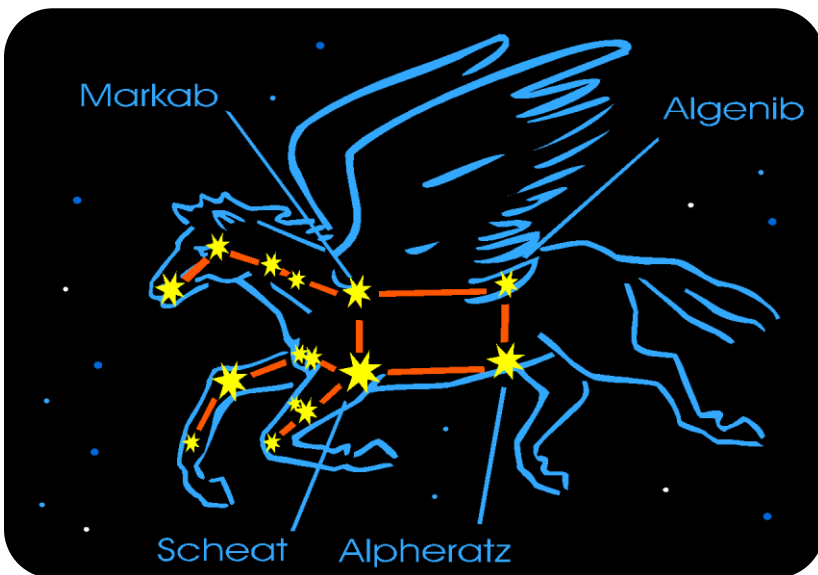
## *Cassiopeia and Andromeda*

<https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellation.php?id=2>  
<https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellation.php?id=19>

Queen Cassiopeia was an extremely boastful woman. As punishment for her pride, the queen was made to sit upside down in her throne in the sky for eternity. Her daughter, Andromeda was chained to a rock in the sea, to be devoured by a sea monster, but was saved by the hero, Perseus.



## *Pegasus*



<https://in-the-sky.org/data/constellation.php?id=63>

Pegasus is a white, immortal winged horse. He was the offspring of Poseidon and Medusa.

He sprung from Medusa's neck when she was killed by Perseus.

# *Greek Mythology - Creatures and Constellations*

## **Discussion/ Essay Questions**

1. How was Polyphemus tricked by Odysseus?
2. What happened when the Sirens sang?
3. Who is the Great Bear?
4. What Zodiac Sign were you born under?
5. Why was Cassiopeia stuck in the stars upside-down?

## **Extra Activities**

1. Create a figure out of clay depicting one of the creatures of Greek Mythology
2. Make your own maze or Labyrinth.
3. Write a story of Medusa, giving her a different ending.
4. Read the detailed stories of the constellations. Write a new story about a constellation you discovered.
5. Go to a place away from the city lights to star gaze. Find all the constellations you've studied.





## *Mythology Study Guides - Greek Mythology Creatures and Constellations*

Thank you for downloading the Greek Mythology Creatures and Constellations Study Guide. All of the curriculum on my website is intended for home use. There are Amazon Affiliated links on my site of any books or supplies I mention. If you decide to buy any of them, please use the links on my website. I take no credit for most of the images I use. It's either on-line clip art or pictures that I may or may not modify, or drawings from my son, Sky Bott. He asks that I mention his YouTube channel, MrSkyPanda. It's a family friendly channel. I'm especially proud of the CandyWorld Episodes.

If you really enjoy Twelve Oaks Schoolhouse curriculum and printables, consider donating on the website. [twelveoaksschoolhouse.com](http://twelveoaksschoolhouse.com)

*Kendra Bott*

