

Cassiopeia (the queen)

Location: Northern Hemisphere

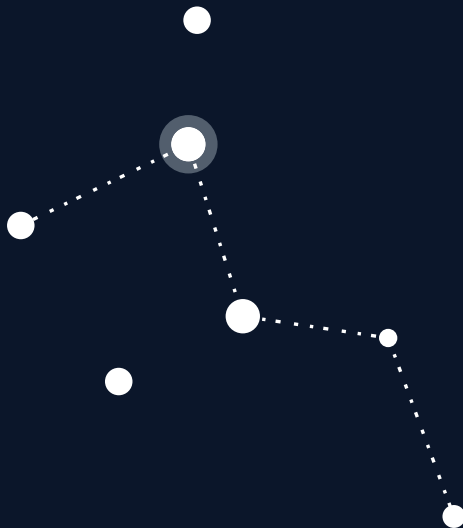
Coordinates:

Right Ascension: 01h

Declination: +60°

Source: Greek mythology. The constellation was also identified by the Egyptians (associated with an evil god), the Chinese (a charioteer), and the Celts (home of the king of the Fairies).

This constellation is named after the queen of a country on the northern coast of Africa, Aethiopia (not modern Ethiopia). The constellation is widely known for its “W” shape that Greek and Roman mythology identified as a queen’s throne.



Taurus (the bull)

Location: Zodiac constellation, visible in both Hemispheres

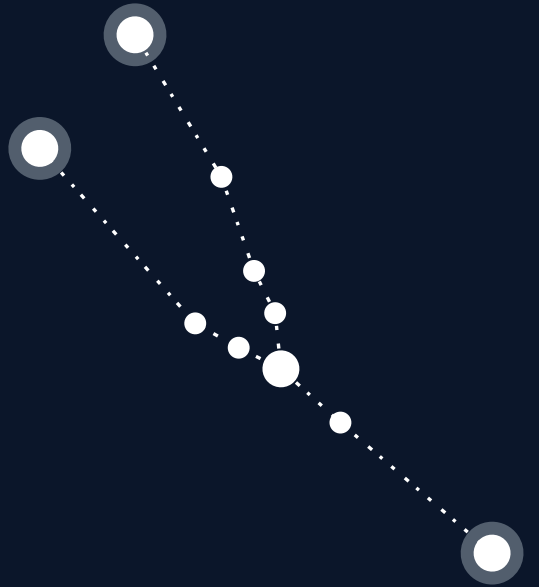
Coordinates:

Right Ascension: 04h

Declination: +15°

Source: Bull legends from various ancient civilizations, also Greek mythology, Egyptian, Arab, other

The constellations that are included in the Zodiac - the 12 constellations recognized by Babylonian astronomers through which our Sun, Moon, and planets appeared to travel during the course of a year - are considered to be among the oldest sky patterns recognized by human civilizations. Taurus, “the bull,” is among the very oldest. Taurus is associated with early stories from Egypt (Apis), Greece (the Minotaur, and several involving Zeus in disguise), and the Druids.



Draco (dragon)

Location: Northern Hemisphere

Coordinates:

Right Ascension: 17h

Declination: +65°

Source: Creation and dragon stories from Greek, Roman, eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, Indian and Norse cultures

There are many stories associated with Draco, the “dragon.” Due to the precession of the Earth, Draco’s star Thuban was the pole star about 4000 years ago. It would have seemed to ancient sky watchers that the Earth revolved around Draco. There is a Babylonian creation story of Tiamat who turned herself into a dragon, but was defeated and split into two, one half becoming the heavens, the other half the Earth. The Egyptians saw Draco as a hippopotamus or crocodile, representing gods and goddesses who appeared in the forms of those animals.



Serpens (the serpent)

Location: Visible between Northern Hemisphere latitudes 80 and -80 degrees

Coordinates:

Right Ascension: 17h

Declination: 0°

Source: Greek and Babylonian legends. Ancient Chinese recognized two halves of a wall.

Serpens, the Latin word for serpent, is the only constellation divided into 2 parts: Serpens Caput (the head) and Serpens Cauda (the tail). The two parts wind around the figure of Asclepius, the Greek god of healing and medicine. Serpens is the same snake found on the symbol of medicine worldwide. Serpens is one of the 88 modern constellations as defined by the International Astronomical Union.

