

Spring Constellations

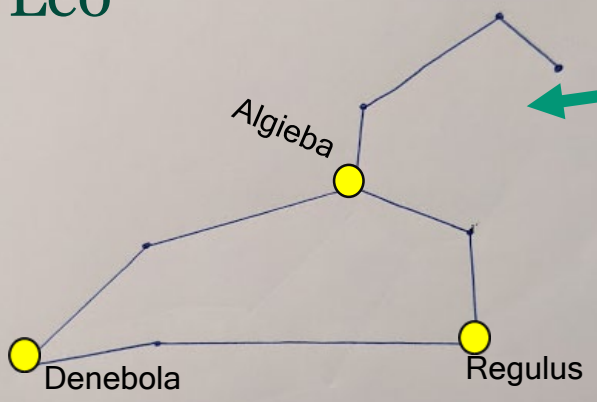


- Ursa Major
- Boötes
- Leo
- Cancer
- The Maiden
- Hydra



With the change in seasons, there is also a gradual change with the stars visible in the night sky. Here we will list the major constellations in the night sky for the spring months. *Which ones will you see?*

Leo



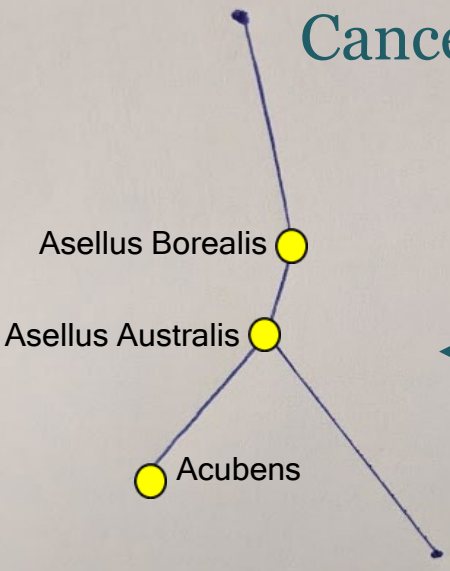
In Greek mythology, Leo was identified as the Lion which Hercules defeated during the first of his twelve labors. The Lion in the myth would capture people and take them to its lair in a cave. This would lure warriors from nearby towns into the cave to save them, leading to their deaths.

Also referring to Greek Mythology, Hydra was most closely associated with the legend of the second labor of Hercules. In the myth, the **sea serpent** had nine heads. One of them was immortal. The celestial Hydra is depicted with only one head, this is believed to be the immortal one.

Hydra

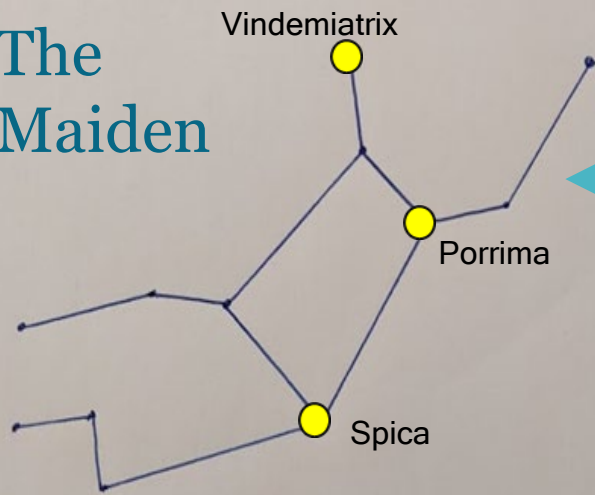


Cancer



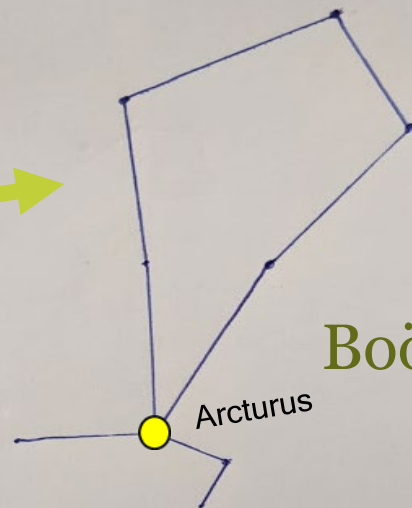
Cancer represents the giant crab that attacked Hercules during the second of his 12 labors. It was sent by the goddess Hera to distract Hercules as he battled the water serpent Hydra (shown above). Hercules ended up killing the giant crab with his club.

The Maiden

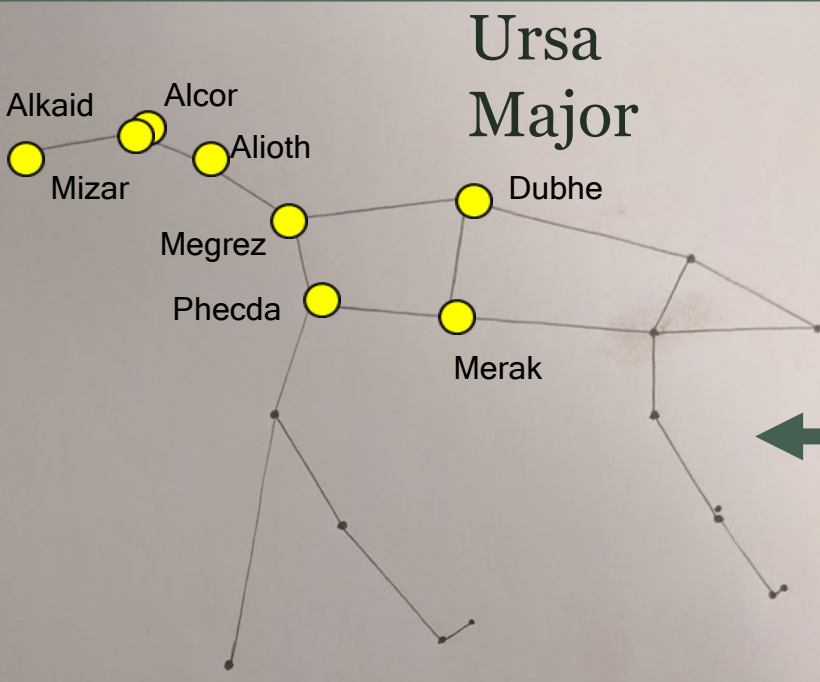


The Maiden has often been related to Persephone, a radiant vision of spring. According to the Greek myth, eternal spring once reigned upon the Earth, until the god of the underworld abducted Persephone. A deal was made allowing Persephone to return to Earth and allow for Spring to return for part of the year.

Greek legends regard the figure in Boötes as a driver or chaser of bears as can be seen by its relation to Ursa Major and Minor.



Boötes



Ursa Major

Ursa Major is the third largest constellation in the sky. In a Greek legend, Ursa Major was turned into a bear and cast into the sky by Hera, the wife of the god, Zeus. You may recognize Ursa Major by another name: The Big Dipper.

Thinking like a Scientist: Counting Stars

This Spring, try and find as many constellations as you can! A telescope is not required. Print the PDF of the Spring Constellation Passport or create your own! Draw pictures of what you see. *Do the constellations look like what they are meant to be in the legends?* Have fun with it, get creative, and enjoy the mysteries of space!



For information on public astronomy nights, check out ohio.edu/observatory



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Passport to the Stars

Hydra

Date found: _____

Weather: _____

How many major stars can you see? _____

Notes _____

Leo

Date found: _____

Weather: _____

How many major stars can you see? _____

Notes _____

Ursa
Major

Date found: _____

Weather: _____

How many major stars can you see? _____

Notes _____

Cancer

Date found: _____

Weather: _____

How many major stars can you see? _____

Notes _____

Virgo

Date found: _____

Weather: _____

How many major stars can you see? _____

Notes _____

Boötes

Date found: _____

Weather: _____

How many major stars can you see? _____

Notes _____