

SAMPLE PREVIEW  
PERSONALISED LEGEND



# Constellation *Legends*

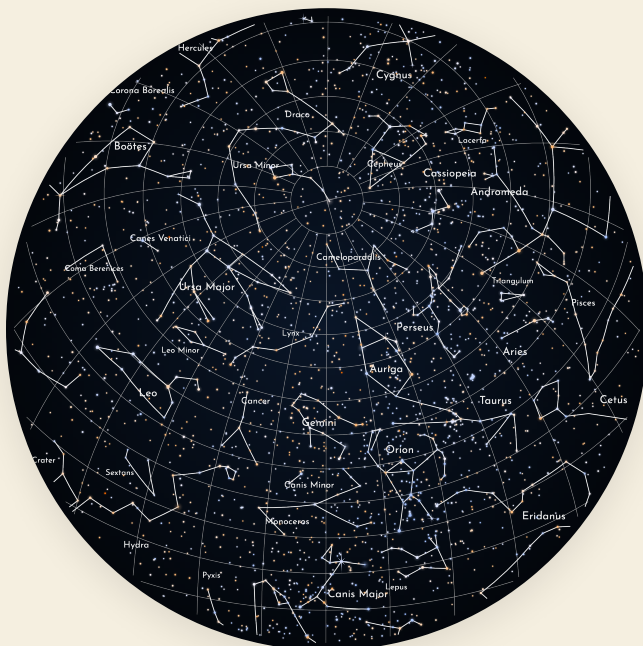
*The myths behind your stars, the science behind their light.*

1st January 2026

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM



Skylit Studio



*The constellations visible in your night sky*

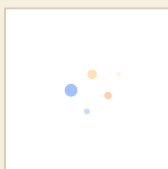
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## READING THE CHART

# Map *symbols*

*A short key to what each mark on your star map means — the chart is data, not decoration.*



### Spectral *dots*

Most stars are drawn as small filled circles, tinted by their spectral colour — blue and white for hot, young stars; gold and amber for cooler ones. Size scales with apparent brightness.

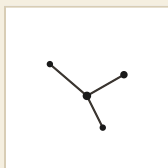
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### Brightest *stars*

The headline stars on your chart — Sirius, Vega, Polaris and the rest brighter than magnitude 2 — are drawn as 8-point compass stars so you can pick them out at a glance. The classic shape ancient navigators reached for.

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### Constellation *lines*

Hairline strokes connect the stars that form each official IAU constellation outline — the same patterns recognised by astronomers worldwide and the storytellers behind the legends in this guide.

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# Stories *written* in the stars.

*On 1st January 2026, from London, United Kingdom, these were the constellations painting your night sky – the same patterns humans have looked up at for thousands of years.*

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Every constellation in your chart carries a story. Cultures across the globe looked at these same stars and saw heroes, creatures and gods – mapping their myths onto the night so the lessons would be visible from anywhere on Earth, season after season.

**This guide tells the stories behind your stars:**

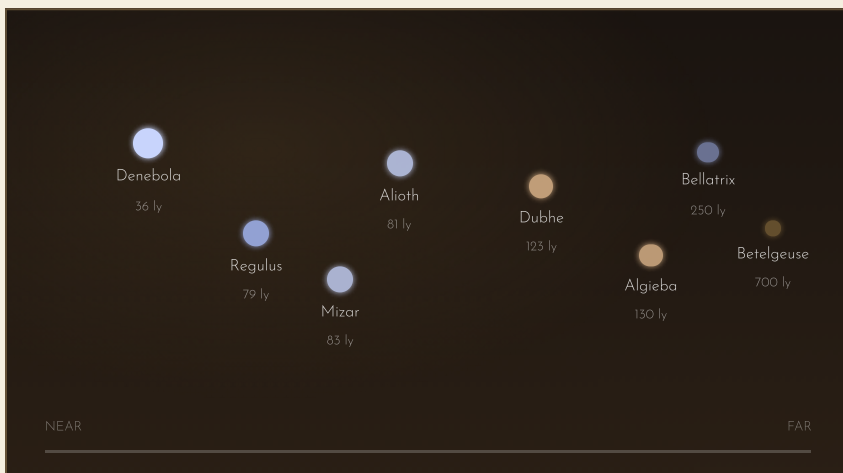
- Orion – The Hunter
  - Ursa Major – The Great Bear
  - Leo – The Lion
- 

These myths have travelled through generations – carried by sailors who navigated by them, by storytellers around fires, and by anyone who has ever stood beneath a clear sky and wondered what was looking back.

## A FLAT SKY, IN THREE DIMENSIONS

# The true *depths* of space.

*The constellations we see are patterns on the sky's dome — but the stars within them sit at wildly different distances from Earth.*



When you look at a constellation, you're seeing a two-dimensional projection of three-dimensional space. Stars that appear as neighbours in the sky may actually be separated by hundreds of light-years.

### NOTE

*A light-year is the distance light travels in one year: approximately 9.46 trillion kilometres. The light from Denebola reaching your eyes left that star 36 years ago.*

The 8 stars shown above are from your constellations, positioned by their true distance from Earth. Each star in your sky is a sun, many with their own planets, all shining their light across the void to reach your eyes on this special night.

# Orion — *The Hunter*

594

SQ. DEGREES

December to February

BEST VIEWING

Both

HEMISPHERE

## ON YOUR SPECIAL NIGHT

Orion was **hanging low in the sky in the southwest**.

Altitude: **31.8°**

Direction: **Southwest**

*The most recognisable constellation in the night sky, Orion dominates winter evenings with his distinctive belt of three bright stars. For millennia, cultures across the world have looked up at this mighty figure, finding inspiration in his eternal presence.*

## The Beloved Hunter

Orion was a giant huntsman of extraordinary beauty and strength, said to be the son of Poseidon, god of the sea. His father granted him the ability to walk on water, and he strode across the waves seeking adventure and love. Orion became the beloved companion of Artemis, goddess of the hunt, and they spent countless days together in the wild. Their bond was so deep that when Orion died, Artemis was overcome with grief. Unable to bear the loss, she placed her beloved hunter among the stars, where he would shine forever. There Orion remains, eternally magnificent, a testament to the enduring power of love and the immortality it can bestow.

## EGYPTIAN TRADITION

### *Sah*

The ancient Egyptians associated Orion with Osiris, god of the afterlife and resurrection. The three great pyramids of Giza are aligned to mirror Orion's Belt, creating a celestial map on Earth. The pharaohs believed their souls would ascend to join Osiris in the stars, achieving eternal life.

## STAR DATA

**Betelgeuse**

700 ly

M1-M2

mag 0.42

**Rigel**

860 ly

B8

mag 0.13

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Orion is visible from nearly every inhabited place on Earth, making it a universal symbol that has connected humanity across all cultures and ages.*

# Ursa Major — *The Great Bear*

1280

SQ. DEGREES

March to June

BEST VIEWING

Northern

HEMISPHERE

## ON YOUR SPECIAL NIGHT

Ursa Major was **positioned high in the sky in the west.**

Altitude: **74.0°**

Direction: **West**

*Home to the famous Big Dipper asterism, Ursa Major is one of the oldest recognised patterns in the sky. It circles the North Pole and never sets for observers in northern latitudes, an eternal presence watching over us.*

## Mother and Son United

Callisto was a beautiful nymph devoted to the goddess Artemis. She bore a son, Arcas, whom she loved beyond measure. Through circumstances beyond her control, Callisto was transformed into a bear and wandered the forests alone, longing for her child. Years later, when Arcas had grown into a young man, fate brought them together. At the moment of their reunion, Zeus, king of the gods, was so moved by their unbreakable bond that he lifted them both into the heavens. There, mother and son were placed side by side as the Great and Little Bears, circling the pole star together for eternity. They never set below the horizon, ensuring they will never again be separated. Their story reminds us that love transcends all circumstances, and that the bonds between parent and child are written in the stars themselves.

## NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITION

### *The Bear*

Many Native American tribes saw a bear in these stars. The Iroquois tell of a great bear whose spirit is honoured each autumn when the leaves turn red. The bear is reborn each spring, a symbol of renewal and the eternal cycle of life.

## STAR DATA

Dubhe

123 ly

K0

mag 1.79

Mizar

83 ly

A2

mag 2.04

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Five of the Big Dipper's seven stars are actually moving through space together as part of the Ursa Major Moving Group - a family of stars travelling together through the cosmos.*

# Leo — *The Lion*

947

SQ. DEGREES

March to May

BEST VIEWING

Both

HEMISPHERE

## ON YOUR SPECIAL NIGHT

Leo was **visible midway up the sky in the southeast.**

Altitude: **49.1°**

Direction: **Southeast**

*The majestic lion of spring skies, Leo is easily identified by the distinctive backward question mark of stars forming its head, known as the Sickle. A symbol of courage, strength, and triumph.*

## The Symbol of Courage

The constellation commemorates a great lion of legendary power, whose golden form gleamed beneath the Mediterranean sun. This magnificent beast became the symbol of ultimate challenge and ultimate triumph. When the hero Heracles faced this lion as his first great task, it seemed impossible - the creature appeared invincible. Yet through courage, determination, and ingenuity, Heracles prevailed. His victory marked the beginning of a legendary journey, proving that with bravery and heart, any challenge can be overcome. Zeus placed the lion among the stars not as a fearsome monster, but as an eternal symbol of the courage it takes to face our greatest challenges, and the glory that awaits those who persevere.

## EGYPTIAN TRADITION

### *Lion*

The Egyptians associated Leo with the annual flooding of the Nile, when the life-giving waters would rise to nourish the land. The lion represented the power of the sun and the renewal of life each year.

## STAR DATA

### Regulus

79 ly

B8

mag 1.35

### Denebola

36 ly

A3

mag 2.14

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Every November, the Earth passes through debris from Comet Tempel-Tuttle, creating the Leonid meteor shower that appears to radiate from Leo - a celestial celebration in the lion's honour.*

Your personalised message appears here

The text you add to your star map will be beautifully displayed on this dedication page.



*The night the stars aligned for us*



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1st January 2026

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

WRITTEN IN THE STARS. TOLD BY YOU.

## REFERENCE

# Understanding *the stars*.

*A quick guide to the astronomical terms used throughout this book.*

## DISTANCE & SCALE

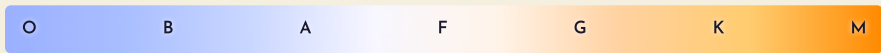
### — Light-Year (ly)

The distance light travels in one year: approximately 9.46 trillion kilometres. When we see a star 100 ly away, we see it as it was 100 years ago.

### — Apparent Magnitude

How bright a star appears from Earth. Lower numbers = brighter. The Sun is -26.7, Sirius is -1.46, and the faintest naked-eye stars are around +6.

## STAR CLASSIFICATION



### — Spectral Type

Stars are classified O, B, A, F, G, K, M from hottest (blue) to coolest (red). Our Sun is a G-type yellow star. The chart above shows the colour gradient.

### — Supergiant / Giant

Stars much larger than our Sun. Red supergiants like Betelgeuse can be 700+ times the Sun's diameter. Giants are the next size down.

## DEEP SKY OBJECTS

### — Nebula

A cloud of gas and dust in space. Some are stellar nurseries where new stars form; others are remnants of dying stars.

### — Star Cluster

Groups of stars born from the same nebula. Open clusters are loose groupings; globular clusters are dense spheres of ancient stars.

### — Galaxy

Vast systems of billions of stars. Our Milky Way is one of billions of galaxies. Andromeda (M31) is our nearest large neighbour.

### — Messier Object (M#)

Objects catalogued by Charles Messier in the 1700s. M42 is the Orion Nebula, M31 is Andromeda, M45 is the Pleiades cluster.

## CONSTELLATIONS

### — Asterism

A recognisable star pattern that's part of a larger constellation. The Big Dipper is an asterism within Ursa Major.

### — Square Degrees (sq°)

How astronomers measure constellation size. The whole sky is 41,253 sq°. Ursa Major (1,280 sq°) is the third largest constellation.



WITH GRATITUDE



## Skylit *Studio*

*Personalised maps of the moments and places that matter – written in  
the stars, told by you.*

SKYLITSTUDIO.CO.UK

MADE WITH CARE, BENEATH THE SAME SKY