

## SPASH Astronomy (Week 8)

### Mythology of the constellation Virgo

Persephone, daughter of Zeus and Demeter, had been abducted and taken to the underworld by Hades. In revenge her mother ruined the harvests, the earth became infertile and the people were starving. Zeus was forced to issue a decree stating that Persephone should spend only a short time each year in the underworld, and when she was released Demeter permitted Nature to resume its natural course.

1. Spica ( Alpha)- 1.3 – brilliant flushed white – signifies: Ear of Wheat held in the Virgins left hand
2. Zavijah (beta) - 3.9 - pale yellow – means: angle or corner

### Mythology of the constellation Libra

This zodiacal constellation is associated with balance - balance of both Nature and of Justice. Some 3000 years ago, the Sun entering LIBRA marked the beginning of Autumn, when days and nights were of equal length, i.e. balanced, and Roman astrologers considered that the constellation represented the scales held by Astraea, goddess of Justice.

1. Kiffa Australis (Alpha) – 3 – means: The Southern Tray of the Scale
2. Kiffa Borealis (Beta) – 2.7 – Means: The Northern Tray of the Scale

### Mythology of the constellation Scorpius

The Scorpion responsible for Orion's death. It is placed in the opposite quadrant to that of Orion.

1. Antares(alpha) - 0.7 – fiery red – means: Rival of Mars (in reference to its color)
2. Graffias(beta) – 2 – pale white – means: Crab (crab and scorpion were interchangeable)

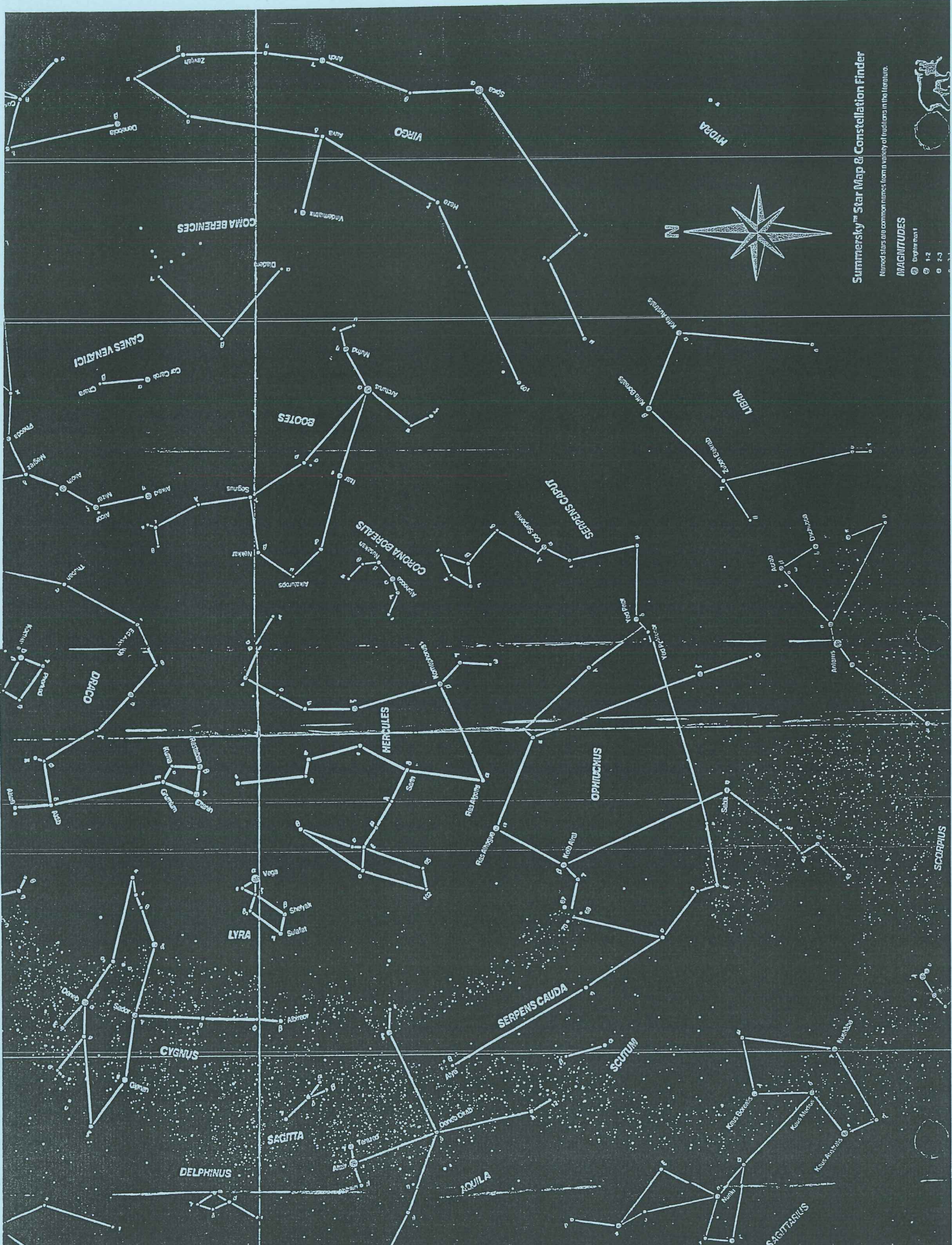
### Mythology of the constellation Sagittarius

The Archer, represents a centaur, half-man/half-horse, descended from Ixion, the man who dared to lust after Hera, wife of Zeus. Realising Ixion's intentions, Zeus sent a cloud, disguised as Hera, to trick him. The offspring of this union was Kentauros, who was shunned by gods and mankind alike. He moved to Thessaly and bred with the mares there, and so centaurs were born. Some, like Chiron, the wise and kindly centaur who befriended Hercules and who is represented by CENTAURUS, were considerate and friendly to men, but many were aggressive. SAGITTARIUS is one of the latter, a fierce hunter with his bow and arrow always aimed at Scorpius.

1. Nushaba(gamma) – 3.1 – yellow – means: The Point
2. Kaus Medius(delta) – 3 – orange – means: The Middle Bow
3. Kaus Australis(epsilon) – 2 – orange – means: The Southern Bow

### Mythology of the Constellation Capricornus

CAPRICORNUS, a creature with the head and body of a goat and the tail of a fish, may well have originated from Assyro-Babylonian depictions of their god of wisdom Oannes, who was half-man, half-fish. In Greek mythology, this constellation is associated with the time the Olympian gods sought refuge in Egypt. Unfortunately, following their epic battle with the Titans, peace did not last for long, as the monster Typhon, son of the Titan Tartarus and Earth, sought revenge. Typhon was a fearsome fire-breathing creature, taller than mountains and with arms which possessed dragons' heads in place of fingers. The Olympian gods sought to escape by adopting various disguises: Zeus, a ram - Hera, a white cow, Bacchus (another version of the myth suggests Pan) a goat. As Typhon approached, Bacchus/Pan threw himself into the Nile but, in a panic, only succeeded in changing part of his body, ending up with a goat's body and the tail of a fish. Meanwhile, Zeus had been dismembered by Typhon, but was saved when Bacchus/Pan let out an ear-splitting yell, distracting the monster long enough for an agile Hermes to collect the supreme god's limbs and carefully restore him. In gratitude, Zeus transferred Bacchus/Pan to the heavens.



# Summer's Star Map & Constellation Finder

Named stars are common names (from a variety of traditions) in the literature.

## MAGNITUDES

① brightest

② 1-2

③ 2-3

