

Session 4

1. A constellation is a group of stars that are near each other from our point of view on Earth. Asterisms are relatively new. Many of them are small patterns, often within a constellation, and some are made of bright stars from more than one constellation. There are no rules about how big or small they should be.
2. There are 36 constellations in the northern hemisphere and the rest 52 in the southern hemisphere.
3. The sun moves between the different constellations of the different zodiac signs but not evenly (e.g., it is not specific for each month). The 12 zodiac signs and their stories and shapes in brief:
 - **Aries:** Ram. Phrixus, a prince, was saved by a golden ram sent by Hermes to be saved from a conspiracy by his stepmother.
 - **Taurus:** Bull. Zeus took the form of a bull to attract Princess Europa and ran away with her.
 - **Gemini:** Twins, Pollux and Castor. Their parents are Zeus and Leda. Castor died in the arms of Pollux, and to bring him back to life, Zeus offered that Pollux and Castor have alternate days on earth. The Gemini constellation represents their brotherly love.
 - **Cancer:** Crab. Hercules defeated Hydra of Lerna, and goddess Hera had sent crabs to the Hydra's aid. Hercules ended up killing them too, and to honor their efforts, they have been given their own constellation by the goddess.
 - **Virgo:** Estrella, daughter of Themis, goddess of justice. Represented purity and justice.
 - **Leo:** Lion. Hercules is known to have killed this lion with an impenetrable hide by strangling the animal.
 - **Libra:** Scales (of justice). Scales of Themis, goddess of justice and balance, known for being merciful to the good and unforgiving to criminals. Everyone was equal before her (represented by her blindfold).
 - **Scorpio:** Scorpion. Myth of Orion, a giant, and Artemis. Her brother Apollo sent a scorpion to kill Orion to preserve her virginal purity.
 - **Sagittarius:** Centaur with pointed bow. Chiron was the wisest, and his death was an accident caused by Hercules.
 - **Capricorn:** Fish-tailed goat. The god Pan transformed into a fish-tailed goat to escape Typhon, the monster that defied gods.
 - **Aquarius:** The cupbearer of gods. Prince Ganymede, a very handsome man, was kidnapped by Zeus to serve nectar of immortality to

gods. This constellation was in his memory for the prince's parents who were very sad after his abduction.

- **Pisces:** Two fishes. Symbolizing Eros and Aphrodite, the mother-son pair transformed into fish to escape the wrath of Typhon.

4. There is also a 13th zodiac constellation by the name of Ophiuchus, and the sun only stays in its region for 18 days.