

The list that follows is of constellations/asterisms that we will learn in the planetarium. You should be able to identify these in the night sky and you will be tested on this skill. Basically, if I give the name you should be able to point out that constellation in the sky. Additionally, you should be able to recognize bright stars associated with these constellations.

These have been divided by season, though several may be visible during two or more seasons. The constellations of the Zodiac, which are roughly along the ecliptic, have been indicated in italics. These are then re-listed separately below.

Circumpolar Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
Ursa Major	The big dipper	Dubhe, Merak, Mizar, Alcor	Locates NCP
Ursa Minor	The little dipper	Polaris	
Cepheus	The king		
Cassiopeia	The queen		
Draco	The dragon		

Summer Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
Bootes	The herdsman	Arcturus	
Hercules	"keystone"		M 13
Lyra	The lyre	Vega	summer triangle
Aquila	The eagle	Altair	summer triangle
Cygnus	The swan	Deneb	summer triangle—Milky Way
<i>Ophiucus</i>	The serpent bearer		Zodiac
Serpens	The serpent		
Corona Borealis	The crown		
<i>Libra</i>	The scales		Zodiac
<i>Virgo</i>	The virgin	Spica	Zodiac
<i>Scorpio</i>	The scorpion	Antares	Zodiac
<i>Sagittarius</i>	The teapot		Zodiac—center of Milky Way

Autumn Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
Pegasus	The flying horse		
Andromeda	The vain princess		M 31
Delphinus	The dolphin		
<i>Capricornus</i>	The goat		Zodiac
<i>Aquarius</i>	The water bearer		Zodiac
<i>Pisces</i>	The chained fish		Zodiac

Winter Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
Perseus			
Auriga		Capella	
Orion	The mighty hunter	Betelgeuse, Rigel	
Canis Major	The big dog	Sirius	
Canis Minor	The little dog	Procyon	
Pleiades	The seven sisters		Star cluster
<i>Aries</i>	The ram		Zodiac, hard
<i>Taurus</i>	The bull	Aldebaran	Zodiac
<i>Gemini</i>	The twins	Castor, Pollux	Zodiac

Spring Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
<i>Cancer</i>	The crab		
<i>Leo</i>	The lion	Regulus, Denabola	

Zodiac Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
Virgo	The virgin	Spica	
Scorpio	The scorpion	Antares	
Sagittarius	The teapot		Center of the Milky Way
Ophiucus	The serpent bearer		
Capricornus	The goat		
Aquarius	The water bearer		
Pisces	The chained fish		
Aries	The ram		Hard
Taurus	The bull	Aldebaran	Includes Hyades star cluster
Gemini	The twins	Castor, Pollux	
Cancer	The crab		
Leo	The lion	Regulus, Denabola	
Libra	The scales		Hard

Miscellaneous Constellations:

Name	Generic Name	Bright Stars	Comments
Crux	The southern cross		Locates SCP