

# IAU designated constellations

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In contemporary [astronomy](#), 88 [constellations](#) are recognized by the [International Astronomical Union](#) (IAU).<sup>[1]</sup> Each constellation is a region of the [sky](#), bordered by arcs of [right ascension](#) and [declination](#). Together they cover the entire [celestial sphere](#), with their boundaries adopted officially by the International Astronomical Union in 1928 and published in 1930.<sup>[2]</sup>

The ancient [Sumerians](#), and later the [Greeks](#) (as recorded by [Ptolemy](#)), established most of the northern constellations in international use today. The constellations along the [ecliptic](#) are called the [zodiac](#). When explorers mapped the stars of the southern skies, European astronomers proposed new constellations for that region, as well as ones to fill gaps between the traditional constellations. In 1922, the International Astronomical Union adopted three-letter abbreviations for 89 constellations, the modern list of 88 plus [Argo](#). After this, [Eugène Joseph Delporte](#) drew up boundaries for each of the 88 constellations so that every point in the sky belonged to one constellation.<sup>[1][2]</sup>



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## History[\[edit\]](#)

*Main articles:* [History of the constellations](#) and [Former constellations](#)

Some constellations are no longer recognized by the IAU, but may appear in older [star charts](#) and other references. Most notable is [Argo Navis](#), which was one of Ptolemy's original 48 constellations.

## Modern constellations<sup>[edit]</sup>

The 88 constellations depict 42 animals, 29 inanimate objects and 17 humans or mythological characters.

### Abbreviations<sup>[edit]</sup>

Each IAU constellation has an official 3-letter abbreviation based on the [genitive](#) form of the constellation name. The majority of the abbreviations are just the first three letters of the constellation name, with the first character capitalised: *Ori* for *Orion*, *Ara* for *Ara/Arae*, *Com* for *Coma Berenices*. In some cases, the abbreviation is from the genitive form without appearing in the base name (as in *Sge* for *Sagitta/Sagittae*, to avoid confusion with *Sagittarius*, abbreviated *Sgr*). In other cases, to unambiguously identify the constellation, such as where the name and its genitive differ in the first three letters, other letters beyond the initial three are used: *Aps* for *Apus/Apodis*, *CrA* for *Corona Australis*, *CrB* for *Corona Borealis*, *Crv* for *Corvus*. (*Crater* is abbreviated *Crt* to prevent confusion with *CrA*.) When letters are taken from the second word of a two-word name, the first letter from the second word is capitalised: *CMA* for *Canis Major*, *CMi* for *Canis Minor*. Two cases are ambiguous: *Leo* for the constellation *Leo* could be mistaken for *Leo Minor* (abbreviated *LMI*), and *Tri* for *Triangulum* could be mistaken for *Triangulum Australe* (abbreviated *TrA*).<sup>[a]</sup>

### List<sup>[edit]</sup>

For help with the literary English pronunciations, see the [pronunciation key](#). There is considerable diversity in how Latinate names are pronounced in English. For traditions closer to the original, see [Latin spelling and pronunciation](#).

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#">Andromeda</a> <span><span>/<span><span>æ</span><span>n</span><span>ˈ</span><span>d</span><span>r</span><span>ɒ</span><span>m</span><span>ɪ</span><span>d</span><span>ə</span></span>/</span><sup>[6]</sup></span>	And	Andr	Andromedae <span><span>/<span><span>æ</span><span>n</span><span>ˈ</span><span>d</span><span>r</span><span>ɒ</span><span>m</span><span>ɪ</span><span>d</span><span>iː</span></span>/</span></span>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">Andromeda</a> (The chained maiden or princess)	<a href="#">Alpheratz</a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#">Antlia</a> <a href="#">/'æntliə/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Ant	Antl	Antliae <a href="#">/'æntlii:/</a>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	<a href="#">air pump</a>	<a href="#">α Antliae</a>
<a href="#">Apus</a> <a href="#">/'eɪpəs/</a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Aps	Apus	Apodis <a href="#">/'æpɒdɪs/</a> <sup>[7]</sup>	1603, <a href="#">Uranometria</a> , created by <a href="#">Keyser</a> and <a href="#">de Houtman</a>	<a href="#">Bird-of-paradise/Exotic Bird/Extraordinary Bird</a>	<a href="#">α Apodis</a>
<a href="#">Aquarius</a> <a href="#">/ə'kwɛəriəs/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Aqr	Aqar	Aquarii <a href="#">/ə'kwɛəriəl/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	water-bearer	<a href="#">Sadalsuud</a>
<a href="#">Aquila</a> <a href="#">/'ækwɪlə/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Aql	Aqil	Aquilae <a href="#">/'ækwɪli:/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">eagle</a>	<a href="#">Altair</a>
<a href="#">Ara</a> <a href="#">/'eərə/</a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Ara	Arae	Arae <a href="#">/'eəri:/</a> <sup>[7]</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">altar</a>	<a href="#">β Arae</a>
<a href="#">Aries</a> <a href="#">/'eər(i)ɪ:z/</a> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	Ari	Arie	Arietis <a href="#">/ə'raɪ.ɪtɪs/</a> <sup>[7]</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">ram</a>	<a href="#">Hamal</a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> <sub>1</sub>	NASA <sup>15</sup> <sub>1</sub>				
<a href="#">Auriga</a> <a href="#">/ɔ:'raɪgə/</a> <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	Aur	Auri	Aurigae <a href="#">/ɔ:'raɪdʒi:/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	charioteer	<a href="#">Capella</a>
<a href="#">Boötes</a> <a href="#">/boʊ'outi:z/</a> <sup>(6)</sup>	Boo	Boot	Boötis <a href="#">/boʊ'oots/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">herdsman</a>	<a href="#">Arcturus</a>
<a href="#">Caelum</a> <a href="#">/'si:ləm/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	Cae	Cael	Caeli <a href="#">/'si:lɑ:/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	<a href="#">chisel</a> or graving tool	<a href="#">α Caeli</a>
<a href="#">Camelopardalis</a> <a href="#">/kə'melou'pɑ:rdəlɪs/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	Cam	Caml	Camelopardalis <a href="#">/kə'melou'pɑ:rdəlɪs/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	1613, <a href="#">Plancius</a> <sup>[note 1]</sup>	giraffe	<a href="#">β Camelopardalis</a>
<a href="#">Cancer</a> <a href="#">/'kænsər/</a> <sup>(6)</sup>	Cnc	Canc	Cancri <a href="#">/'kæŋkraɪ/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	crab	<a href="#">Tarf</a> <sup>(8)</sup>
<a href="#">Canes Venatici</a> <a href="#">/'kemi:z vi'nætɪsər/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	CVn	CVen	Canum Venaticorum <a href="#">/'kɛnəm vɪnəti'kɔrəm/</a>	1690, <i>Firmamentum Sobiescianum</i> , <a href="#">Hevelius</a>	<a href="#">hunting dogs</a>	<a href="#">Cor Caroli</a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#"><u>Canis Major</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈkeɪnɪs ˈmeɪdʒər/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	CMa	CMaj	Canis Majoris <a href="#"><u>/ˈkeɪnɪs məˈdʒɔːrɪs/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	greater dog	<a href="#"><u>Sirius</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Canis Minor</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈkeɪnɪs ˈmɪnər/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	CMi	CMin	Canis Minoris <a href="#"><u>/ˈkeɪnɪs mɪˈnɔːrɪs/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	lesser dog	<a href="#"><u>Procyon</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Capricornus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˌkæprɪˈkɔːrnəs/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Cap	Capr	Capricorni <a href="#"><u>/ˌkæprɪˈkɔːrnɪ/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	sea goat	<a href="#"><u>Deneb Algedi</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Carina</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/kəˈraɪnə/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Car	Cari	Carinae <a href="#"><u>/kəˈraɪniː/</u></a>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a> , split from <a href="#"><u>Argo Navis</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>keel</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Canopus</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cassiopeia</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˌkæsiuːˈpiːə/</u></a> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	Cas	Cass	Cassiopeiae <a href="#"><u>/ˌkæsiuːˈpiːiː/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>Cassiopeia</u></a> (mythological character)	<a href="#"><u>Schedar</u></a> <sup>[8]</sup>
<a href="#"><u>Centaurus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/senˈtɔːrəs/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Cen	Cent	Centauri <a href="#"><u>/senˈtɔːraɪ/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>centaur</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rigel Kentaurus</u></a> <sup>[8]</sup>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> <sub>1</sub>	NASA <sup>15</sup> <sub>1</sub>				
<a href="#"><u>Cepheus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'si:fiəs, -fju:s/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Cep	Ceph	Cephei <a href="#"><u>/'si:fiəi/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>Cepheus</u></a> (mythological character)	<a href="#"><u>Alderamin</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cetus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'si:təs/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Cet	Ceti	Ceti <a href="#"><u>/'si:təi/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>sea monster</u></a> (later interpreted as a whale)	<a href="#"><u>Diphda</u></a> <sup>[8]</sup>
<a href="#"><u>Chamaeleon</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/kə'mi:liən/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Cha	Cham	Chamaeleontis <a href="#"><u>/kə'mi:li'ɒntɪs/</u></a>	1603, <a href="#"><u>Uranometria</u></a> , created by <a href="#"><u>Keyser</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>de Houtman</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>chameleon</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>α Chamaeleontis</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Circinus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'sɜ:rsɪnəs/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Cir	Circ	Circini <a href="#"><u>/'sɜ:rsɪnəi/</u></a>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>compasses</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>α Circini</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Columba</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/kɒu'lʌmbə/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Col	Colm	Columbae <a href="#"><u>/kɒu'lʌmbi:/</u></a>	1592, <a href="#"><u>Plancius</u></a> , split from <a href="#"><u>Canis Major</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>dove</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Phact</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Coma Berenices</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'kɒmə bərə'nəɪsɪ:z/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Com	Coma	Comae Berenices <a href="#"><u>/'kɒmi: bərə'nəɪsɪ:z/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	1603, <a href="#"><u>Uranometria</u></a> , split from Leo	<a href="#"><u>Berenice's hair</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>β Comae Berenices</u></a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#">Corona Australis</a> <sup>[note 2]</sup> <u><a href="#">/kou'rounə ɔ:'stræɪlɪs, - 'streɪ-/</a></u> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	CrA	CorA	Coronae Australis <u><a href="#">/kou'rouni: ɔ:'stræɪlɪs/</a></u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	southern <a href="#">crown</a>	<a href="#">Meridiana</a> <sup>[8]</sup>
<a href="#">Corona Borealis</a> <u><a href="#">/kou'rounə bɔ:ri'æɪlɪs, - 'eɪɪlɪs/</a></u> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	CrB	CorB	Coronae Borealis <u><a href="#">/kou'rouni: bɔ:ri'æɪlɪs/</a></u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	northern crown	<a href="#">Alphecca</a>
<a href="#">Corvus</a> <u><a href="#">/'kɔ:rvəs/</a></u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Crv	Corv	Corvi <u><a href="#">/'kɔ:rvai/</a></u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">crow</a>	<a href="#">Gienah</a>
<a href="#">Crater</a> <u><a href="#">/'kreɪtər/</a></u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Crt	Crat	Crateris <u><a href="#">/krə'tɪərɪs/</a></u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">cup</a>	<a href="#">δ Crateris</a>
<a href="#">Crux</a> <u><a href="#">/'krʌks/</a></u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Cru	Cruc	Crucis <u><a href="#">/'kru:sɪs/</a></u>	1603, <a href="#">Uranometria</a> , split from Centaurus	southern <a href="#">cross</a>	<a href="#">Acrux</a>
<a href="#">Cygnus</a> <u><a href="#">/'sɪgnəs/</a></u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Cyg	Cygn	Cygni <u><a href="#">/'sɪɡnai/</a></u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">swan</a> or Northern Cross	<a href="#">Deneb</a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#">Delphinus</a> <a href="#">/dɛl'fɪnəs/<sup>[6]</sup></a>	Del	Dlph	Delphini <a href="#">/dɛl'fɪnɪ/<sup>[6]</sup></a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	dolphin	<a href="#">Rotanev</a>
<a href="#">Dorado</a> <a href="#">/dɔːrɑːdoʊ/<sup>[9]</sup></a>	Dor	Dora	Doradus <a href="#">/dɔːrɛdəs/<sup>[9]</sup></a>	1603, <a href="#">Uranometria</a> , created by <a href="#">Keyser</a> and <a href="#">de Houtman</a>	<a href="#">dolphinsfish</a>	<a href="#">α Doradus</a>
<a href="#">Draco</a> <a href="#">/'dreɪkoʊ/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	Dra	Drac	Draconis <a href="#">/drə'koʊnɪs/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">dragon</a>	<a href="#">Eltanin<sup>[8]</sup></a>
<a href="#">Equuleus</a> <a href="#">/ɪ'kwuːliəs/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	Equ	Equl	Equulei <a href="#">/ɪ'kwuːliɪ/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">pony</a>	<a href="#">Kitalpha</a>
<a href="#">Eridanus</a> <a href="#">/ɪ'ɪrɪdənəs/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	Eri	Erid	Eridani <a href="#">/ɪ'ɪrɪdənɪ/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	river <a href="#">Eridanus</a> (mythology )	<a href="#">Achernar</a>
<a href="#">Fornax</a> <a href="#">/'fɔːrnæks/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	For	Forn	Fornacis <a href="#">/'fɔːr'nɛɪs/<sup>[7]</sup></a>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	chemical <a href="#">furnace</a>	<a href="#">Dalim<sup>[8]</sup></a>



Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> <sub>1</sub>	NASA <sup>15</sup> <sub>1</sub>				
<a href="#"><u>Gemini</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'dʒɛmɪnaɪ/</u></a> <sup>[16]</sup>	Gem	Gemi	Geminorum <a href="#"><u>/'dʒɛmɪ'nɒrəm/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	twins	<a href="#"><u>Pollux</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Grus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'grʌs/</u></a> <sup>[17]</sup>	Gru	Grus	Gruis <a href="#"><u>/'gru:ɪs/</u></a> <sup>[17]</sup>	1603, <a href="#"><u>Uranometria</u></a> , created by <a href="#"><u>Keyser</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>de Houtman</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>crane</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Alnair</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hercules</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'hɜ:rkjʊli:z/</u></a> <sup>[17]</sup>	Her	Herc	Herculis <a href="#"><u>/'hɜ:rkjʊlɪs/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>Hercules</u></a> (mythological character)	<a href="#"><u>Kornephoros</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Horologium</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'hɒrə'lɒdʒiəm, -'lɒʊ-/</u></a> <sup>[16][17]</sup>	Hor	Horo	Horologii <a href="#"><u>/'hɒrə'lɒʊdʒiəl/</u></a>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pendulum clock</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>α Horologii</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hydra</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'haɪdrə/</u></a> <sup>[16]</sup>	Hya	Hyda	Hydrae <a href="#"><u>/'haɪdri:/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>Hydra</u></a> (mythological creature)	<a href="#"><u>Alphard</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hydrus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/'haɪdrəs/</u></a> <sup>[16]</sup>	Hyi	Hydi	Hydri <a href="#"><u>/'haɪdraɪ/</u></a>	1603, <a href="#"><u>Uranometria</u></a> , created by <a href="#"><u>Keyser</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>de Houtman</u></a>	lesser <a href="#"><u>water snake</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>β Hydri</u></a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> <sub>1</sub>	NASA <sup>15</sup> <sub>1</sub>				
<u>Indus</u> <u>/ˈɪndəs/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Ind	Indi	Indi <u>/ˈɪndaɪ/</u>	1603, <u><i>Uranometria</i></u> , created by <u>Keyser</u> and <u>de</u> <u>Houtman</u>	<u>Indian</u> (of unspecified type)	<u>α Indi</u>
<u>Lacerta</u> <u>/ləˈsɜːrtə/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Lac	Lacr	Lacertae <u>/ləˈsɜːrtiː/</u>	1690, <i>Firmamentum</i> <i>Sobiescianum</i> , <u>Hevelius</u> <u>s</u>	lizard	<u>α Lacertae</u>
<u>Leo</u> <u>/ˈliːoʊ/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Leo	Leon	Leonis <u>/liːˈoʊnɪs/</u>	ancient ( <u>Ptolemy</u> )	lion	<u>Regulus</u>
<u>Leo Minor</u> <u>/ˈliːoʊ ˈmɪnər/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	LMi	LMin	Leonis Minoris <u>/liːˈoʊnɪs mɪˈnɔːrɪs/</u>	1690, <i>Firmamentum</i> <i>Sobiescianum</i> , <u>Hevelius</u> <u>s</u>	lesser lion	<u>Praecipua</u>
<u>Lepus</u> <u>/ˈliːpəs/</u> <sup>[7]</sup>	Lep	Leps	Leporis <u>/ˈlepəɪs/</u> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	ancient ( <u>Ptolemy</u> )	<u>hare</u>	<u>Arneb</u>
<u>Libra</u> <u>/ˈlaɪbrə, ˈliː-/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Lib	Libr	Librae <u>/ˈlaɪbriː/</u>	ancient ( <u>Ptolemy</u> )	<u>balance</u>	<u>Zubeneschamali</u> <sup>[8]</sup> <u>1</u>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#">Lupus</a> <a href="#">/'lju:pəs/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Lup	Lupi	Lupi <a href="#">/'lju:paɪ/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">wolf</a>	<a href="#">α Lupi</a>
<a href="#">Lynx</a> <a href="#">/'lɪŋks/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Lyn	Lync	Lyncis <a href="#">/'lɪnsɪs/</a>	1690, <i>Firmamentum Sobiescianum</i> , <a href="#">Hevelius</a> <a href="#">s</a>	<a href="#">lynx</a>	<a href="#">α Lyncis</a>
<a href="#">Lyra</a> <a href="#">/'laɪrə/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Lyr	Lyra	Lyrae <a href="#">/'laɪri:/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">lyre / harp</a>	<a href="#">Vega</a>
<a href="#">Mensa</a> <a href="#">/'mensə/</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Men	Mens	Mensae <a href="#">/'mensi:/</a>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	<a href="#">Table Mountain</a> (South Africa)	<a href="#">α Mensae</a>
<a href="#">Microscopium</a> <a href="#">/.maɪkroʊ'skoʊpiəm/</a>	Mic	Micr	Microscopii <a href="#">/.maɪkroʊ'skoʊpiəɪ/</a>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	<a href="#">microscope</a>	<a href="#">γ Microscopii</a>
<a href="#">Monoceros</a> <a href="#">/mə'nɒsɪrəs/</a> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	Mon	Mono	Monocerotis <a href="#">/.mɒnəsɪ'rɒʊtɪs/</a>	1613, <a href="#">Plancius</a>	<a href="#">unicorn</a>	<a href="#">β Monocerotis</a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> <sub>1</sub>	NASA <sup>15</sup> <sub>1</sub>				
<u>Musca</u> <u>/ˈmʌskə/</u> <sup>[7]</sup>	Mus	Musc	Muscae <u>/ˈmʌsiː/</u> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	1603, <u>Uranometria</u> , created by <u>Keyser</u> and <u>de</u> <u>Houtman</u>	<u>fly</u>	<u>α Muscae</u>
<u>Norma</u> <u>/ˈnɔːrmə/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Nor	Norm	Normae <u>/ˈnɔːrmiː/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	1763, <u>Lacaille</u>	carpenter's <u>level</u>	<u>γ<sub>2</sub> Normae</u>
<u>Octans</u> <u>/ˈɒktænz/</u> <sup>[7]</sup>	Oct	Octn	Octantis <u>/ɒkˈtæntɪs/</u> <sup>[7]</sup>	1763, <u>Lacaille</u>	<u>octant (instrument)</u>	<u>ν Octantis</u>
<u>Ophiuchus</u> <u>/ˌɒfɪˈjuːkəs/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Oph	Ophi	Ophiuchi <u>/ˌɒfɪˈjuːkaɪ/</u>	ancient ( <u>Ptolemy</u> )	<u>serpent</u> -bearer	<u>Rasalhague</u>
<u>Orion</u> <u>/oʊˈraɪən/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	Ori	Orio	Orionis <u>/oʊˈraɪənɪs, ˌɒrɪˈoʊnɪs/</u> <sup>[7]</sup> <sub>1</sub>	ancient ( <u>Ptolemy</u> )	<u>Orion</u> (mythological character)	<u>Rigel</u>
<u>Pavo</u> <u>/ˈpeɪvɒ/</u> <sup>[6][7]</sup>	Pav	Pavo	Pavonis <u>/pəˈvoʊnɪs/</u> <sup>[7]</sup>	1603, <u>Uranometria</u> , created	<u>peacock</u>	<u>Peacock</u>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> 1	NASA <sup>15</sup> 1				
				by <a href="#">Keyser</a> and <a href="#">de Houtman</a>		
<a href="#">Pegasus</a> <a href="#">/'pegəsəs/</a> <sup>(6)</sup>	Peg	Pegs	Pegasi <a href="#">/'pegəsai/</a>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">Pegasus</a> (mythological winged horse)	<a href="#">Enif</a>
<a href="#">Perseus</a> <a href="#">/'pɜ:rsiəs, -sju:s/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	Per	Pers	Persei <a href="#">/'pɜ:rsiəi/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">Perseus</a> (mythological character)	<a href="#">Mirfak</a>
<a href="#">Phoenix</a> <a href="#">/'fi:niks/</a> <sup>(6)</sup>	Phe	Phoe	Phoenicis <a href="#">/'fi'naisi/</a>	1603, <a href="#">Uranometria</a> , created by <a href="#">Keyser</a> and <a href="#">de Houtman</a>	<a href="#">phoenix</a>	<a href="#">Ankaa</a>
<a href="#">Pictor</a> <a href="#">/'piktər/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	Pic	Pict	Pictoris <a href="#">/'pɪk'tɔ:ris/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	<a href="#">easel</a>	<a href="#">α Pictoris</a>
<a href="#">Pisces</a> <a href="#">/'paɪsi:z, 'pi-/</a> <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	Psc	Pisc	Piscium <a href="#">/'piʃiəm/</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	fishes	<a href="#">Alpherq</a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> 1	NASA <sup>15</sup> 1				
<a href="#"><u>Piscis Austrinus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈpaɪsɪs ɔːˈstraɪnəs/</u></a>	PsA	PscA	Piscis Austrini <a href="#"><u>/ˈpaɪsɪs ɔːˈstraɪnəri/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	southern fish	<a href="#"><u>Fomalhaut</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Puppis</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈpʌpɪs/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Pup	Pupp	Puppis <a href="#"><u>/ˈpʌpɪs/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a> , split from <a href="#"><u>Argo Navis</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>poop deck</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Naos</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Pyxis</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈpɪksɪs/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Pyx	Pyxi	Pyxidis <a href="#"><u>/ˈpɪksɪdɪs/</u></a>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>mariner's compass</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>α Pyxidis</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Reticulum</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/rɪˈtɪkjʊləm/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Ret	Reti	Reticuli <a href="#"><u>/rɪˈtɪkjʊləɪ/</u></a>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>eyepiece graticule</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>α Reticuli</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sagitta</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/səˈdʒɪtə/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Sge	Sgte	Sagittae <a href="#"><u>/səˈdʒɪtɪː/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>arrow</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>γ Sagittae</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sagittarius</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/sædʒɪˈteəriəs/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Sgr	Sgr	Sagittarii <a href="#"><u>/sædʒəˈteəriəri/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>archer</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kaus Australis</u></a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#"><u>Scorpius</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈskɔːrpiəs/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Sco	Scor	Scorpii <a href="#"><u>/ˈskɔːrpiə/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>scorpion</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Antares</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sculptor</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈskʌlptər/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Scl	Scul	Sculptoris <a href="#"><u>/skɒlpˈtɔːrɪs/</u></a>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a>	sculptor	<a href="#"><u>α Sculptoris</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Scutum</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈskjuːtəm/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Sct	Scut	Scuti <a href="#"><u>/ˈskjuːtə/</u></a>	1690, <i>Firmamentum Sobiescianum</i> , <a href="#"><u>Hevelius</u></a> <u>s</u>	shield (of <a href="#"><u>Sobieski</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>α Scuti</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Serpens</u></a> <sup>[10]</sup> <a href="#"><u>/ˈsɜːrpeɪnz/</u></a>	Ser	Serp	Serpentis <a href="#"><u>/sɜːˈpeɪntɪs/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	snake	<a href="#"><u>Unukalhai</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sextans</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈseks.tənz/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	Sex	Sext	Sextantis <a href="#"><u>/seksˈtæntɪs/</u></a> <sup>[7]</sup>	1690, <i>Firmamentum Sobiescianum</i> , <a href="#"><u>Hevelius</u></a> <u>s</u>	<a href="#"><u>sextant</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>α Sextantis</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Taurus</u></a> <a href="#"><u>/ˈtɔːrəs/</u></a> <sup>[6]</sup>	Tau	Taur	Tauri <a href="#"><u>/ˈtɔːraɪ/</u></a>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>bull</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Aldebaran</u></a>

Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>14</sup> 1	NASA <sup>15</sup> 1				
<a href="#">Telescopium</a> <u>/ˈtɛlɪˈskɒpiəm/</u>	Tel	Tele	Telescopii <u>/ˈtɛlɪˈskɒpiə/</u>	1763, <a href="#">Lacaille</a>	<a href="#">telescope</a>	<a href="#">α Telescopii</a>
<a href="#">Triangulum</a> <u>/traɪˈæŋɡjələm/</u>	Tri	Tria	Trianguli <u>/traɪˈæŋɡjələ/</u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	<a href="#">triangle</a>	<a href="#">β Trianguli</a>
<a href="#">Triangulum Australe</a> <u>/traɪˈæŋɡjələm ɔːˈstræliː, -ˈstreɪ-/</u>	TrA	TrAu	Trianguli Australis <u>/traɪˈæŋɡjələɪ ɔːˈstræliːs/</u>	1603, <a href="#">Uranometria</a> , created by <a href="#">Keyser</a> and <a href="#">de Houtman</a>	southern triangle	<a href="#">Atria</a>
<a href="#">Tucana</a> <u>/tjuːˈkeɪnə/</u>	Tuc	Tucn	Tucanae <u>/tjuːˈkeɪniː/</u>	1603, <a href="#">Uranometria</a> , created by <a href="#">Keyser</a> and <a href="#">de Houtman</a>	<a href="#">toucan</a>	<a href="#">α Tucanae</a>
<a href="#">Ursa Major</a> <u>/ˌɜːrsə ˈmeɪdʒər/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	UMa	UMaj	Ursae Majoris <u>/ˌɜːrsiː məˈdʒɔːrɪs/</u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	great bear	<a href="#">Alioth</a>
<a href="#">Ursa Minor</a> <u>/ˌɜːrsə ˈmɪnər/</u> <sup>[6]</sup>	UMi	UMin	Ursae Minoris <u>/ˌɜːrsiː miˈnɔːrɪs/</u>	ancient ( <a href="#">Ptolemy</a> )	lesser bear	<a href="#">Polaris</a>



Constellation	Abbreviations		Genitive	Origin	Meaning	Brightest star
	IAU <sup>[4]</sup> 1	NASA <sup>[5]</sup> 1				
<a href="#"><u>Vela</u></a> <span><span>/<span><span>ˈ</span><span>v</span><span>iː</span><span>l</span><span>ə</span></span>/</span><sup>[6]</sup></span>	Vel	Velr	Velorum <span><span>/<span><span>v</span><span>iː</span><span>l</span><span>əː</span><span>r</span><span>ə</span><span>m</span></span>/</span></span>	1763, <a href="#"><u>Lacaille</u></a> , split from <a href="#"><u>Argo Navis</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>sails</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>γ<sup>2</sup> Velorum</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Virgo</u></a> <span><span>/<span><span>ˈ</span><span>v</span><span>ɜːr</span><span>ɡ</span><span>oʊ</span></span>/</span><sup>[6]</sup></span>	Vir	Virg	Virginis <span><span>/<span><span>ˈ</span><span>v</span><span>ɜːr</span><span>dʒ</span><span>ɪ</span><span>n</span><span>ɪ</span><span>s</span></span>/</span></span>	ancient ( <a href="#"><u>Ptolemy</u></a> )	<a href="#"><u>virgin</u></a> or maiden	<a href="#"><u>Spica</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Volans</u></a> <span><span>/<span><span>ˈ</span><span>v</span><span>oʊ</span><span>l</span><span>æ</span><span>n</span><span>z</span></span>/</span><sup>[7]</sup></span>	Vol	Voln	Volantis <span><span>/<span><span>v</span><span>oʊ</span><span>ˈ</span><span>l</span><span>æ</span><span>n</span><span>t</span><span>ɪ</span><span>s</span></span>/</span><sup>[7]</sup></span>	1603, <a href="#"><u>Uranometria</u></a> , created by <a href="#"><u>Keyser</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>de Houtman</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>flying fish</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>β Volantis</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Vulpecula</u></a> <span><span>/<span><span>v</span><span>ʌ</span><span>l</span><span>ˈ</span><span>p</span><span>ɛ</span><span>k</span><span>j</span><span>ʊ</span><span>l</span><span>ə</span></span>/</span><sup>[6]</sup></span>	Vul	Vulp	Vulpeculae <span><span>/<span><span>v</span><span>ʌ</span><span>l</span><span>ˈ</span><span>p</span><span>ɛ</span><span>k</span><span>j</span><span>ʊ</span><span>l</span><span>iː</span></span>/</span></span>	1690, <i>Firmamentum Sobiescianum</i> , <a href="#"><u>Hevelius</u></a>	fox	<a href="#"><u>Anser</u></a>

## Asterisms<sup>[edit]</sup>

*Main article:* [Asterism \(astronomy\)](#)

Various other unofficial patterns exist alongside the constellations. These are known as "asterisms". Examples include the [Big Dipper](#)/Plough and the [Northern Cross](#). Some ancient asterisms, for example [Coma Berenices](#), [Serpens](#), and portions of [Argo Navis](#), are now officially constellations.

## See also<sup>[edit]</sup>

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- [Constellations listed by Petrus Plancius](#)
- [Constellations listed by Johannes Hevelius](#)
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- [Constellation family](#)
- [Galactic quadrant](#)
- [Zodiac](#)

## Notes<sup>[edit]</sup>

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1. <sup>^</sup> The constellations [Camelopardalis](#), [Columba](#), and [Monoceros](#), formed by [Petrus Plancius](#) in 1592 and in 1613, are often erroneously attributed to [Jacob Bartsch](#) and [Augustin Royer](#).
2. <sup>^</sup> [Corona Australis](#) is sometimes called "Corona Austrina" /ɔːˈstriːnə/ (genitive: Coronae Austrinae).

## References<sup>[edit]</sup>

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1. <sup>^</sup> Jump up to:<sup>#</sup> *"The Constellations". [International Astronomical Union](#). Retrieved 26 July 2019.*
2. <sup>^</sup> Jump up to:<sup>#</sup> *Eugène Delporte; International Astronomical Union (1930). [Délimitation scientifique des constellations](#). At the University press.*
3. <sup>^</sup> *Russell, Henry Norris (1922). "The New International Symbols for the Constellations". [Popular Astronomy](#). **30**: 469. [Bibcode:1922PA.....30..469R](#).*
4. <sup>^</sup> *"The Constellations". [International Astronomical Union](#). Retrieved 9 December 2015.*
5. <sup>^</sup> [NASA Dictionary of terms for Aerospace Use – table V, Constellations](#)
6. <sup>^</sup> Jump up to:<sup>#</sup> *[a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) [p](#) [q](#) [r](#) [s](#) [t](#) [u](#) [v](#) [w](#) [x](#) [y](#) [z](#) [aa](#) [ab](#) [ac](#) [ad](#) [ae](#) [af](#) [ag](#) [ah](#) [ai](#) [aj](#) [ak](#) [al](#) [am](#) [an](#) [ao](#) [ap](#) [aq](#) [ar](#) [as](#) [at](#) [au](#) [av](#) [aw](#) [ax](#) [ay](#) [az](#) [ba](#) [bb](#) [bc](#) [bd](#) [be](#) [bf](#) [OED](#), 2nd edition*
7. <sup>^</sup> Jump up to:<sup>#</sup> *[a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) [p](#) [q](#) [r](#) [s](#) [t](#) [u](#) [v](#) [w](#) [x](#) [y](#) [z](#) [aa](#) [ab](#) [ac](#) [ad](#) [ae](#) [af](#) [ag](#) [ah](#) [ai](#) [aj](#) [ak](#) [al](#) [am](#) [an](#) [ao](#) [ap](#) [aq](#) [ar](#) [as](#) [at](#) [au](#) [av](#) [aw](#) [ax](#) [ay](#) [az](#) [ba](#) [bb](#) [bc](#) [bd](#) [be](#) [bf](#) [bg](#) Random House Dictionary*

8. ^ Jump up to:<sup>a</sup><sup>b</sup><sup>c</sup><sup>d</sup><sup>e</sup><sup>f</sup><sup>g</sup><sup>h</sup> "[Naming Stars](#)". *IAU.org*. Retrieved 30 July 2018.
9. ^ "[Definition of dorado](#)". *Collins English Dictionary*. Retrieved 28 November 2012.
10. ^ [Serpens](#) may be divided into [Serpens Cauda](#) (serpent's tail) and [Serpens Caput](#) (serpent's head)

## External links<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

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- <http://www.ianridpath.com/constellations1.htm> – [Ian Ridpath](#)'s list of constellations.
- <http://www.ianridpath.com/startales/contents.htm> – [Ian Ridpath](#)'s *Star Tales*.
- <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/Cat?cat=VI/49> – [CDS](#)'s archive of constellation boundaries. The text file constbnd.dat gives the 1875.0 coordinates of the vertices of the constellation regions, together with the constellations adjacent to each boundary segment.

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