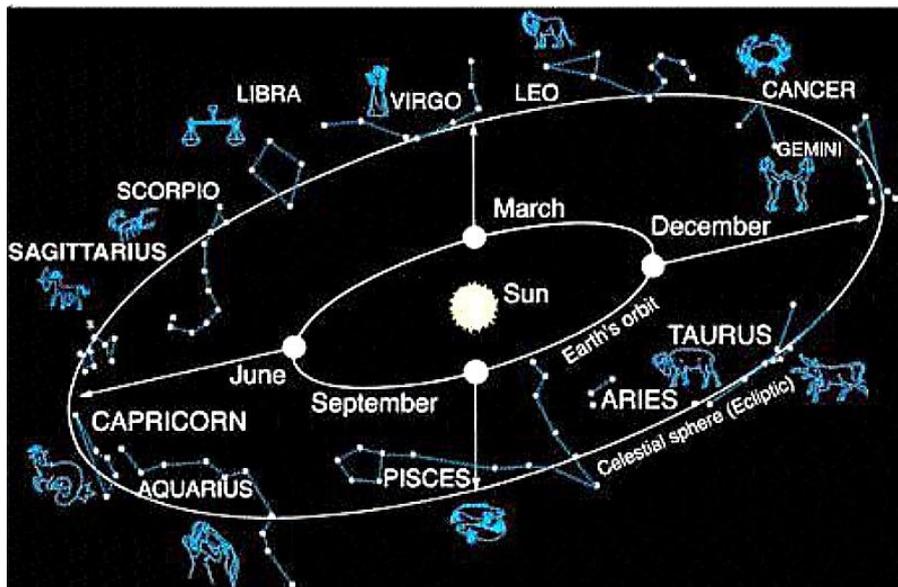


# The Zodiac: *Astronomy vs Astrology*

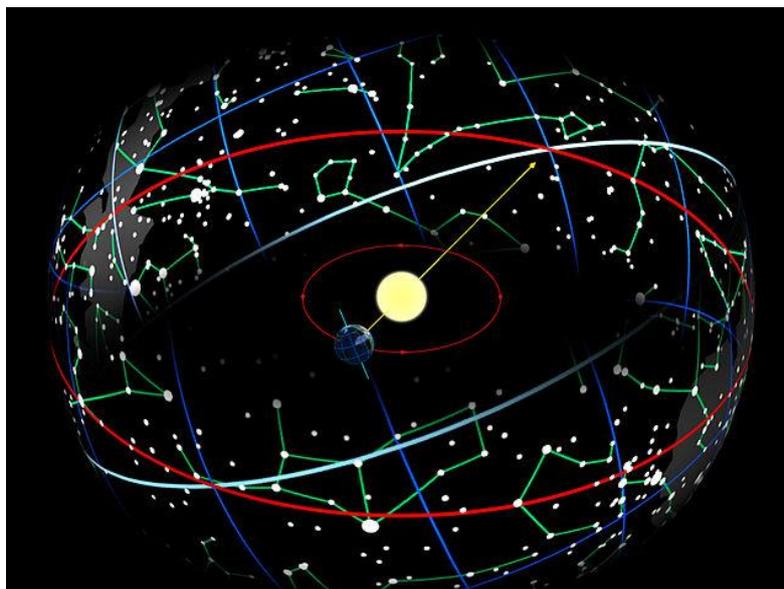
## Astronomy:

Astronomy is the study of all objects outside Earth's atmosphere. These objects include the Sun, Moon, planets, stars, galaxies and all other matter in the universe.

The zodiac is linked to astronomy because it is closely tied to how the Earth orbits the sun. As Earth orbits the sun, the sun appears to pass in front of different constellations. Much like the moon appears in a slightly different place in the sky each night, the location of the sun (relative to distant background stars) drifts in an easterly direction from day to day. It's not that the sun is actually moving. Its motion is entirely an illusion, caused by Earth's own motion around our star.



As the Earth orbits the sun, the sun appears to move against the background stars (red line). The constellations (green) through which the sun passes define the zodiac.



Over the course of a year, the sun appears to be in front of, or "in", different constellations. One month, the sun appears in Gemini; the next month, in Cancer.

# Astrology:

Astrology is the study of how the positions of the stars and movements of the planets have a supposed influence on events and on the lives and behaviour of people. An astrologer looks at the planets' positions and tries to understand a person's character or tries to predict the future.

Each of the zodiac signs are said to have different personality traits. Here is some more information about the characteristics associated with each sign:



## **Aries (March 21 – April 19)**

Aries loves to be number one, so it's no surprise that these audacious rams are the first sign of the zodiac. Bold and ambitious, Aries dives headfirst into even the most challenging situations.



## **Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**

Taurus is represented by the bull. Taureans enjoy relaxing in serene, bucolic environments surrounded by soft sounds and soothing aromas.



## **Gemini (May 21 – June 20)**

Have you ever been so busy that you wished you could clone yourself just to get everything done? That's the Gemini experience in a nutshell. Appropriately symbolized by the celestial twins, this sign was interested in so many pursuits that it had to double itself.



## **Cancer (June 21 – July 22)**

Cancer is represented by the crab. This crustacean seamlessly weaves between the sea and shore representing Cancer's ability to exist in both emotional and material realms. Cancers are highly intuitive, which means they can effortlessly pick up the energies in a room.



## **Leo (July 23 – August 22)**

Roll out the red carpet because Leo has arrived. Leo is represented by the lion and those represented by this sign are the kings or queens of the celestial jungle. They are delighted to embrace their royal status: vivacious, theatrical and passionate, Leos love to bask in the spotlight and celebrate themselves.



## **Virgo (August 23 – September 22)**

Virgo is represented by the goddess of wheat and agriculture, an association that speaks to Virgo's deep-rooted presence in the material world. Virgos are logical, practical and systematic in their approach to life. This sign is a perfectionist at heart and isn't afraid to improve skills through diligent and consistent practice.



### **Libra (September 23 – October 22)**

Libra is represented by the scales (interestingly, the only inanimate object of the zodiac), an association that reflects Libra's fixation on balance and harmony. Libra is obsessed with symmetry and strives to create balance in all areas of life.



### **Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)**

Scorpio is one of the most misunderstood signs of the zodiac. It has incredible passion and power and it derives its strength from the psychic, emotional realm.



### **Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)**

Represented by the archer, Sagittarians are always on a quest for knowledge. Sagittarius launches its many pursuits like blazing arrows, chasing after geographical, intellectual and spiritual adventures.



### **Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)**

Capricorn is represented by the sea goat, a mythological creature with the body of a goat and tail of a fish. Accordingly, Capricorns are skilled at navigating both the material and emotional realms.



### **Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)**

Aquarius is represented by the water bearer, the mystical healer who bestows water, or life, upon the land. Aquarius is the most caring astrological sign.



### **Pisces (February 19 – March 20)**

Pisces is the last constellation of the zodiac. It's symbolized by two fish swimming in opposite directions, representing the constant division of Pisces' attention between fantasy and reality. As the final sign, Pisces has absorbed every lesson – the joys and the pain, the hopes and the fears – learned by all of the other signs.

### Guided Reading: Inference

1. Let's start by building up to answering this question:

Which zodiac sign do you think is likely to be the calmest?

- Firstly, you need to pick the zodiac sign that you are going to use in your answer.  
Read back through the characteristics of each sign and write the one you are going to use here:

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- Now pick out a specific word or phrase that made you select that zodiac and write it here:

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- Why did that make you think that the zodiac you have chosen is calm?

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- Next, if you can, pick out another word or phrase that made you select that zodiac and write it here:

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- Why did this word or phrase make you think that the zodiac you have chosen is calm?

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Ok... Now you have all you need to form your answer!

It could be helpful to use this structure: I think that the calmest zodiac sign is \_\_\_\_\_ because in the text is says \_\_\_\_\_, which shows \_\_\_\_\_.

Which zodiac sign do you think it likely to be the calmest?

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2. Now, use the same process (decide on your answer, find evidence, explain your evidence) to answer this question:

Leos are shy and quiet characters.

Do you agree or disagree? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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