

The zodiac is a belt of space around Earth. It occupies the path that the Sun appears to take around Earth in the course of a year (although it is actually Earth that is moving around the Sun).

Twelve well-known groups of stars, called constellations, lie in the zodiac. Their names are Aries (the ram), Taurus (the bull), Gemini (the twins), Cancer (the crab), Leo (the lion), Virgo (the virgin), Libra (the balance), Scorpius (the scorpion), Sagittarius (the archer), Capricornus (the goat), Aquarius (the water bearer), and Pisces (the fish).

Ancient peoples saw how the Sun appeared to pass in front of each constellation for about one month of the year. (During this time the constellation was not visible in the night sky.) Most of the constellations represent animals. Therefore the ancient Greeks called the zone zodiakos kyklos, "circle of animals," or ta zodia, "the little animals."

Each sign was associated with specific dates. The dates have changed because the path of Earth has changed over the years. Astrologers still use the old dates. Astrologers are people who claim to be able to predict the future based on the positions of the stars and the planets in the sky.

1. What is the zodiac?

- A. A belt of space around the Sun
- B. A belt of space around Earth
- C. A group of animals
- D. A group of constellations

2. Why do the dates associated with each sign of the zodiac change?

- A. Because the positions of the stars and planets change
- B. Because the path of Earth has changed over the years
- C. Because astrologers update them annually
- D. Because there is no mathematical relation between them

3. Who were the ancient Greeks?

- A. People who saw the zodiac
- B. People who predicted the future
- C. People who created the zodiac
- D. People who named the zodiac after animals

4. What do astrologers claim to do?

- A. Predict the future based on the positions of the stars and the planets in the sky
- B. Count the number of constellations in the zodiac

- C. Associate each sign of the zodiac with a different animal
- D. Create their own dates for each sign of the zodiac

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. D
- 4. A