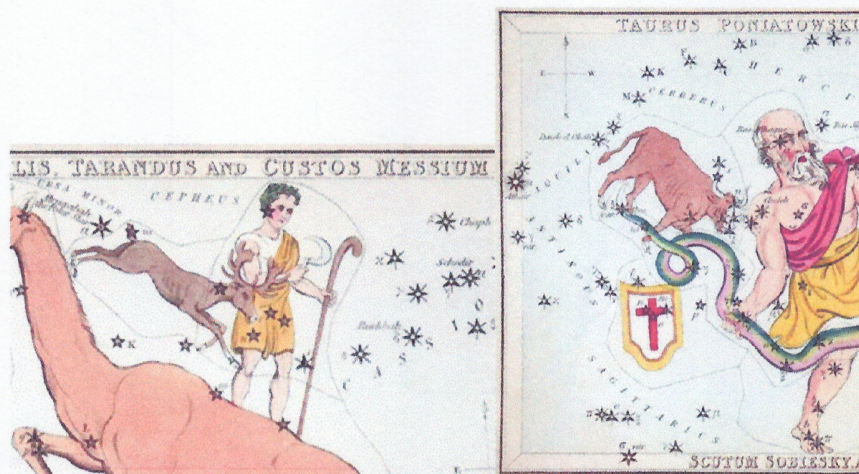


Alternate Constellation Observing Program



While you're enjoying the dark skies this week, why not try a new Astronomical League Observing Program? In case you missed this in the latest issue of Reflector Magazine:

8 REFLECTOR ★ SEPTEMBER 2021

ALTERNATE CONSTELLATIONS OBSERVING PROGRAM – EXPLORE THE SKY IN A NEW WAY

The Alternate Constellations Observing Program offers the chance to explore star groups as seen from around the globe and across 5,000 years of history. Using just your eyes or small binoculars, the program includes 50 observations of star groups from the cultures of six geographic regions. You also track down 40 obsolete constellations: these were invented beginning in the Renaissance but were discarded when the 88 official constellations were set. A set of additional

exercises completes the requirements of the program. You sketch your favorite "unofficial" star group and discover how location and precession affect the stars we see.

Along the way, you can learn much about other cultures and other times – for example, how the Polynesians used the stars to navigate the vast Pacific Ocean, from Indonesia to Hawaii and beyond.

You may be surprised by how ubiquitous the constellation symbols of other cultures are today in brands and icons all around you. Check out our YouTube video (tinyurl.com/youtube-alt-const) or visit the program's web page (tinyurl.com/al-alt-const) for more information.

—Bred Young

An observing form and lots more information is available at the webpages listed above. But you can make your sketches here and the info is basic:

Quick View of Requirements	
Alternate Constellation Observing Program	
Tools Used (Eyes (E), Binoculars (B), Telescopes (T))	E
Manual (M) / Device Aided (DA)	M
Remote Telescopes Allowed	N/A
Visual (V) / Imaging (I)	V
Number of Levels	1
Number of Observations by Level	90
Must be an AL Member	Yes
Recommended Minimum Instrument Size	N/A
Date Deadline for Submission	No
Special Equipment Required	No
Equipment Must Be Constructed	No
Observations Must Be Submitted to an On-Line Database	No

Observation Requirements	
Alternate Constellation Observing Program	
Object Name/Number	Yes
Observer's Latitude	Yes
Observer's Longitude	Yes
Date of Observation (LT or UT)	Yes
Time of Observation (LT or UT)	Yes
For Visual Observations:	
Sketch of Object	Yes
Seeing	Yes
Transparency	Yes

Wikipedia has info on most of the [Obsolete Constellations](#), and googling the names of Other Cultures constellations will also provide needed data for sketching and sourcing. If you're an AL member (if you're in an astronomy club, you may be automatically), you can earn a certificate and pin.

#	Obsolete Constellation	Meaning	Visibility	Completed
25	Rosa	Rose	Dusk	
26	Asterion and Chara	Hunting Dogs	Dusk	
29	Mons Maenalus	Mountain	Dusk	
31	Scarabaeus	Rhinoceros Beetle	Dusk	
32	Quadrans Muralis	Mural Quadrant	Evening	
33	Sagitta Australis	Southern Arrow	Evening	
34	Cerberus	Hound of Hell	Evening	
35	Gryphites	Shellfish	Evening	
36	Patella	Limpet	Evening	
38	Taurus Poniatovii	Poniatowski's Bull	Evening	
40	Pinna Marina	Mussel	Evening	
41	Anguilla	Eel	Evening	
43	Pomum Imperiale	Leopold's Orb	Evening	
45	Globus Aerostaticus	Hot Air Balloon	Evening	
37	Ramus Pomifer	Apple Tree Branch	Most of Night	
39	Antinous	Antinous	Most of Night	
42	Leo Palatinus	Lion of Palatinus	Most of Night	
44	Dentalium	Tooth Shell	Most of Night	
46	Tigris	Tigris River	Most of Night	
1	Battery of Volta	Battery	All night	
2	Linum Piscium	Line of Fishes	All night	
3	Testudo	Tortoise	All night	
5	Triangulum Minus	Small Triangle	All night	
14	Custos Messium	Harvester	All night	
15	Tartandus	Reindeer	All night	
47	Frederici Honores	Frederick's Honors	All night	
48	Manis	Pangolin	All night	
4	Deltaton	Triangle	Midnight	
6	Lilium	Fleur de Lis	Midnight	
8	Sciurus Volans	Flying Squirrel	Midnight	
11	Capra and Haedi	Goat and Kids	Midnight	
7	Psalterium Georgii	George's Harp	Late	
10	Sceptrum Brandenburgicum	Scepter of Brandenburg	Late	
9	Hippocampus	Sea Horse	Dawn	
12	Limax	Slug	Dawn	
13	Hirudo	Leech	Dawn	
16	Uranoscopus	Stargazing Fish	Dawn	
17	Cancer minor	Small Crab	Dawn	
18	Gallus	Rooster	Dawn	
19	Officina Typographica	Printshop	Dawn	
20	Lumbricus	Earthworm	Dawn	
21	Asselli and Praesepe	The Asses	Dawn	
22	Felis	Felix the Cat	None	
23	Lochium Funis	Log Line	None	
24	Jordanus	River Jordan	None	
27	Bufo	Toad	None	
28	Aranea	Spider	None	
30	Noctua	Owl	None	

Native American Star Groups (20):

Star Group	Tribe	Visibility	Sketched	Source
1 Never Ending Bear Hunt	Micmac	Dusk		
2 She is Sitting	Seneca	Late		
3 Coyote's Family	Shoshone	Evening		
4 Slingshot Stars	Cochiti Pueblos	Evening		
5 Star Zigzag	Zuni Pueblos	Evening		
6 Real Snake	Pawnee	Dusk		
7 Wolf That Hangs at the Side of the Heavens	Osage	Dawn		
8 3 Persons in a Race	Coeur d'Alene	Evening		
9 Lodge of Spider Man	Blackfoot	Dusk		
10 Stones Supporting a Lamp	Inuit	Evening		
11 3 Who Went Together	Apache	Dawn		
12 Spiderman's Fingers	Blackfoot	Dusk		
13 Mountain Sheep	Paiute	Evening		
14 4 Big Ones	Zuni Pueblos	Evening		
15 Snake Not Real	Pawnee	Dusk		
16 Grizzly Bear	Shoshone	Evening		
17 Horned Head of Wild Animal	Iroquois	Evening		
18 The Arm / Elbow Stars	Cherokee	Dawn		
19 Long Sash's Place of Doubt	Tewa	Dawn		
20 Spirit's Path / Road of Dead	Ojibway	Evening		

Asian Star Groups (10):

Star Group	Translation	Visibility	Sketched	Source
21 Tien Ta Tsaeng	Heaven's Great General (China)	Morning		
22 Kasah Shekesteh	Broken Platter (Persia)	Evening		
23 Arye	Lion (Hebrew)	None		
24 Mithuna	Boy and Girl (India)	Dawn		
25 Tien Ching	Celestial Balance (China)	None		
26 Al Babadur	The Strong One (Arabian)	Morning		
27 Te-Te	The 2 Groups (Akkadian)	Morning		
28 Chang Jin	The Old Folks (China)	Morning		
29 Al Rakis	Dancer (Arabian)	Evening		
30 Acvini	Horse or Horseman	Morning		

Central and South American Star Groups (5):

Star Group	Translation	Visibility	Sketched	Source
31 Colca	Shepherd (Peru)	Morning		
32 Tzab	Rattlesnake's Tail (Aztec)	Morning		
33 Ac Ek	Turtle (Mayan)	Morning		
34 Citlaltlactli	Ballcourt (Aztec)	Dawn		
35 Urcuchillay	Llama (Inca)	Evening		

African Star Groups (5):

	Star Group	Translation	Visibility	Sketched	Source
36	Monius	Water (Egypt)	Morning		
37	Flock of Birds	Flock of Birds (Sotho)	Morning		
38	Meant	Sky Figure (Egypt)	Evening		
39	dintsa le Dikolobe	3 Dogs Chasing 3 Pigs (Tswana)	Morning		
40	IsiLimela	Digging Stars (Xhosa)	Morning		

Australian Star Groups (5) (Note: only a portion of some of these are visible in the north):

	Star Group	Translation	Visibility	Sketched	Source
41	Emu	Emu (Gurungai)	None		
42	Julpan	Canoe (Yolngu)	Morning		
43	Maya-Mayi	Sisters (Wurundjeri)	Morning		
44	Woodliparri	House River (Yolngu)	Evening		
45	Forbidden Fish	(Yolngu)	Morning		

Pacific Islanders Star Groups (5):

	Star Group	Translation	Visibility	Sketched	Source
46	Moroporo	Boiling Lights (Phillipines)	Morning		
47	Ke Kā o Makali'i	Canoe Bailer (Hawaii)	Morning		
48	Ha'amonga	Sun Gate (Tonga)	Morning		
49	Ka Makau Nui o Māui	Big Fishhook (Hawaii)	None		