

Parents And Children Together

Planisphere Tasks

1. Write down today's date. Use the planisphere to find the name of a star you can see in the North of the sky at 8 p.m.
2. See if you can find this star in the sky.
3. What star will be in the North of the sky at midnight?
4. Write down your birthday and some of your relative's birthdays. Which zodiac sign will be visible at midnight on each of these birthdays? (the answer may not be what you think.....)
5. When will the bright stars of Orion be visible at 8 p.m. to the North of your home?
6. What types of people might still use a knowledge of the night sky in their work or their leisure activities?

Further work

1. Read the poem "Zodiac". Which zodiac constellations are mentioned in the poem?
2. What time of year would these six constellations be visible to the travellers?
3. Which constellations are left out?
4. When would these six constellations be visible?
5. Can you make up another verse for the poem, describing one of the constellations that has been left out?
6. These stories are based on an old Greek-based view of the sky. Do you know, or can you find out, any stories about these constellations from other parts of the world?