



## The Zodiac, The Circle of Life

Do you check your horoscope each day in the newspaper? Do you believe what you read? If you are not sure, you share your doubts with many people over many centuries. Yet interest in astrology remains strong.

The word horoscope comes from the Greek words *hora* for “hour” and *skopas* meaning “watcher” or “observer.” Thus, your horoscope is based on observation of the position of the planets and starts in relation to one another at the hour of your birth. Obviously, the daily newspaper predictions are general,

for anyone born under a particular sign of the zodiac. But by the law of averages, sometimes a horoscope will have a message or advice that seems to be meant only for you.

The zodiac, or circle of life (actually, in Greek, circle animals) is the basis for the horoscope. Divided into twelve parts to correspond to the twelve cycles the moon makes around the earth annually, each part of the zodiac is named for a constellation. How did the zodiac come to exist? Astrology, the interest in and observation of heavenly bodies, is very ancient. The Babylonians observed that in addition to the fixed stars in the heavens there were certain other stars that moved. They had their own names for these wanderers, but the Greeks later called them planets. They consisted of the sun and moon, plus Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn, and Venus. You will notice that the last five are names of Roman gods; it was once thought that the planets were gods.

The early astrologers observed that the planets moved only through a narrow band of the sky, marked by twelve constellations. These constellations, which became the signs of the zodiac, were believed to be the houses of the planet gods.

Those ancient scientists discovered that the planets moved according to a predictable pattern. Thus, they reasoned, if the events in the heavens followed a pattern, that pattern would be reflected in events on the earth. For the individual, the position of the planets at the time of birth would determine what the future would hold. Each person’s destiny was in the hands of the gods (the planets). In this way, the use of astrology to predict the future began.

However, the zodiacal sign not only determined a person’s future, but also was a clue to character – or so the ancients believed. The planets, too, had an influence on human behavior. Such words as moonstruck, saturnine, and mercurial all had their origin in this belief. Thus a moonstruck person had their origin in this belief. Thus a moonstruck person is deranged because of the influence of the moon, a saturnine disposing is basically grave and gloomy, and a mercurial one is changeable.

Have you ever called a teacher crabby? That adjective comes from Cancer the crab, another sign of the zodiac. Does anyone you know own a Ford Taurus, named for yet another sign? And are you still planning to check your horoscope tomorrow? If you do, remember that you are following an ancient tradition.

# The Zodiacal Constellations



## Aquarius (The Water Carrier)

21st January – 19th February  
This well-known constellation of the zodiac represents a youth pouring water from a jar.



## Pisces (The Fishes)

20th February – 20th March  
Pisces represents the twelfth and final stage in the evolution of man and his place in the universe.



## Aries (The Ram)

21st March – 20th April  
Aries depicts the ram with the golden fleece, famous from Greek mythology, and is a zodiac constellation.



## Taurus (The Bull)

21st April – 21st May  
A highly impressive constellation of the zodiac, which is said to represent the Greek god Zeus disguised as a bull.



## Gemini (The Twins)

22nd May – 21st June  
A Zodiac constellation depicting the twins Castor and Pollux who sailed with the Argonauts in search of the golden fleece and who were later regarded by the ancient Greeks as patron saints of seafarers.



## Cancer (The Crab)

22nd June – 23rd July  
Zodiac constellation representing the crab that, in Greek mythology, was crushed by Hercules during his battle with the multi-headed Hydra.



## Leo (The Lion)

24th July – 23rd August  
A majestic zodiac constellation depicting the lion that Hercules killed as one of his twelve labours.



## Virgo (The Virgin)

24th August – 23rd September  
This is the largest constellation of the zodiac and the only one to represent a female figure. Amongst others, she has been identified as Dike, the Greek goddess of Justice.



## Libra (The Scales)

24th September – 23rd October  
One of the constellations of the zodiac and associated with Themis, the Greek goddess of justice.



## Scorpio (The Scorpion)

24th October – 22nd November  
A beautiful constellation of the zodiac, depicting the scorpion that, in Greek mythology, killed Orion with its sting. The old version of its name, Scorpio, is only used in astrology.



## Sagittarius (The Archer)

23rd November – 22nd December  
A zodiac constellation located on the Milky Way in the direction of the centre of the galaxy. It depicts Crotus, the son of the Greek god Pan and the inventor of archery, aiming his bow at a scorpion - neighbouring constellation Scorpius.



## Capricorn (The Sea Goat)

23rd December – 20th January  
Smallest constellation of the zodiac, depicting a fish-tailed goat. In Greek myth it is linked with the goat-like god Pan, who turned his lower half into a fish to escape the sea monster Typhon.

## Aries (March 21 to April 19)



As the first sign in the zodiac, the Aries personality reflects its pride of place with a "me first" attitude and strong leadership abilities. Adventure-loving and courageous, Aries can be hot-tempered at times and impatient for action. While the Aries is the first to take a risk, once the pioneering aspect of any project is completed, they often become bored and immediately look for a new adventure.

Aries are drawn to careers that promise lots of action or that require extraordinary multi-tasking efforts. For this reason they often shine as military or business leaders, day traders, stock brokers, or adventure travelers. Aries people are known to enjoy robust good health and blazing energy, but they tend to suffer from "burn out" by trying to accomplish too much in the shortest amount of time.

As their sign rules the head and face, Aries are commonly afflicted with headaches or flash fevers that arise and end suddenly. Even more serious illnesses tend not to last long due to their extraordinary powers of recovery, or more likely their psychological aversion to defeat!

To offset their adventurous natures, in love Aries can be quite domestic owing to a craving for stability. Their inner nuclear reactors are allowed to cool down within a happy home life, and to love ones they are usually grateful, loyal and steadfast.





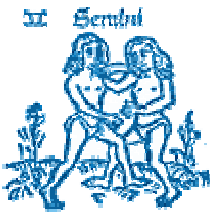
## **Taurus (April 20 - May 20)**

Taurus is one of the more practical personalities in the zodiac and, like their symbol the bull, those born under the sign are markedly plodding and methodical. However, one should never underestimate the power they possess in planning a tenacious, step-by-step approach to ultimate success. Taureans are not flash or fiery, but possess an uncommonly observant nature backed by a steely reserve and remarkable powers of will. You can rely on the determined Taurus to always get what they want, if not today - then in due time.

Generally, they are the very model of cool and even-temperedness, but anyone who tangles with the ill-tempered bull usually lives to regret it, especially if a Taurean perceives that their homes or security are under imminent threat. Securing their most basic needs for themselves and their loved ones, Taurus people are basically lovers of creature comforts and are often surrounded by them. Their tastes often run to the traditional, and they do not venture to seek out new ways of doing things, but generally rely on the tried-and-true.

In their careers, Taureans are most attracted to detailed analysis and typically make successful bookkeepers, accountants and bankers or, in the arts, craftspeople and artisans who excel at intricate motifs & designs.

As the sign rules the throat, Taurus people may exhibit unusual or charismatic speaking and singing voices. Adversely, illnesses suffered usually center around the neck resulting in pain or muscle stiffness in that area, frequent sore throats, or chronic thyroid conditions.



## **Gemini (May 21- June 21)**

The Gemini symbol is The Twins, representing the dual nature and "multiple personalities" those born under this sign commonly exhibit. Geminis are talkative, extremely likable, and possessed of a keen intellect and tremendous powers of versatility. Having been born under the ruling planet Mercury (the god of communications) a prime directive for most Geminis is in-depth conversation, not idle chatter. As a result, they are the ones who at social gatherings may coax from a complete stranger their entire life story in a deep and abiding interest to know everyone and everything.

In love and friendship, Geminis are extremely loyal. However, their devotion is usually contrasted with a bit of uncertainty at the receiving end - as family and loved ones are never sure which Twin they will be dealing with on any given day!

In short, Geminis are never boring. With intellectual power bordering on genius, coupled with an unbounded imagination, Geminis often excel at careers in the arts, literature, news reporting, or in any form of communication. Setbacks come only with lack of follow-through and inability to meet deadlines, as Gemini's curiosity is diverted to a myriad of interests.

Seemingly born under a lucky star, Gemini's are frequently known to enjoy unexpected good news or sudden windfalls out of the blue.



## **Cancer (June 22 - July 21)**

The fourth sign of the zodiac, Cancer has historically been associated with the home and close-knit clans and family life. But the number of personality types found within Cancer are the most wide-ranging of any found within the zodiac. While Aries are typically full of energy, and Leo can generally be counted on to entertain, the Cancer type personality can vary from shy and withdrawn to boisterous and sociable.

Dig deeper beneath a Crab's shell, however, and you are apt to find common traits that lie hidden beneath - such as a basic conservative nature, a sympathetic demeanor, and a heartfelt wish to help those less fortunate.

Conversely, they can also appear to be overly sensitive and thin-skinned at times, even obstinate in their wish for quiet and privacy. In fact, a secure home base is important to all Cancers, where they can crawl into their dens and find welcome and comfort as a respite from cares of the world.

In love, Cancers are generally very romantic and nurturing, and in business make excellent mentors. While some Cancers are known to have become dynamic business leaders, others find rewards in working behind the scenes in any kind of service industry. Home furnishings, food preparation or catering, education or public relations are just a few of the career paths in which they can excel.



### **Leo (June 22 - August 21)**

The fifth sign of the Zodiac, Leo is most often identified with its symbol - the Lion - indicating a regal and magnanimous personality. But those who are closely acquainted with a Leo also know the other side of their persona — that of the extroverted "class clown" who always like to take center stage.

Holding popular sway over a large circle of friends, Leos are usually called upon to take on the role of the arbiter and often make world-class diplomats. With their considerable leadership abilities, those born under this sign can excel in anything they turn their hand to.

In love, Leo easily attracts romantic partners and, even after settling down in domestic bliss, tend to have a roving eye.

Other possible negative aspects of the sign include a leonine pride and boastfulness, together with an air of gullibility and a tendency to see the world through rose-colored glasses. If anyone betrays them, they are quite surprised and may become deeply hurt. When their plans are thwarted, Leos tend to become lazy and indolent and likely to blame their troubles on a hostile world. However, Leo's are never beaten for long, thanks to a fiery determination, charismatic personality, and an unwavering belief that they are rulers of all they survey!



### **Virgo (August 22 - September 21)**

The sixth sign of the Zodiac, Virgo is generally thought to give those born under the sign a streak of perfectionism in all they do. Quietly observant, self-controlled, and analytical, a Virgo can also be self-critical to the point of inaction whenever they come to feel that they cannot perfectly master a particular task.

This has given Virgos a reputation for being extremely fussy and persnickety, going over every minor detail in an effort to get...things...just...right.

While they often fail to see the big picture, Virgo's strength comes from an innate curiosity about how things work. If you know anyone who likes deconstructing an electronic toy or gizmo just to see its components - chances are they were born under the sign of Virgo!

Often immaculately dressed, they also generally show a marked interest in the latest health fads, sometimes leading to an inordinate obsession with maintaining peak physical fitness.

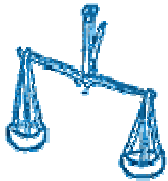
In love, Virgos attract others who share their idealism, but are usually slow to enter into marriage. Once settled into a domestic partnership, however, they are extremely thoughtful and loyal, doing everything in their power to make friends and family happy.

Generally self-effacing, Virgos in the workplace are most comfortable working behind the scenes, and excel in positions where they make lasting contributions without having to bask in the limelight. Virgos make excellent researchers, financial officers, bankers, accountants or any field that will benefit from their extraordinary mastery and attention to detail.



♎ Libra

## Libra (September 23 - October 22)



The seventh sign in the Zodiac, Libra is represented by the Scales and is most noted for a balanced approach to life and a love of peace and justice. As a personality type, Librans strive for civilized relationships with everyone. In addition to being the most charming and mellow of any sign in the Zodiac, they are also often the most physically attractive.

Innately kind and gentle, the Libran cannot abide by any form of cruelty and, although very sociable, are instantly turned-off by any type of vulgarity.

Negative aspects of the Libran personality may include an over dependence on compromise, which may appear to some as a marked lack of conviction. The "lazy Libra" reputation also stems from their naturally laid-back attitude and love of beauty and extravagance.

Their agreeable manner and natural good looks can be counted on to attract a bevy of friends and romantic partners near and far, and in love they can be quite flirtatious. Once committed, however, they make the most loving and sympathetic of partners and are quick to forgive a failing.

In their work, Librans have an impatience with routine and owing to a good eye and ear for harmony often excel as interior designers, artists, musicians, composers or art critics. Their always impartial judgement also makes them prime candidates for careers as diplomats, judges or lawyers.



♏ Scorpio

## Scorpio (October 22 - November 21)



The eighth sign in the Zodiac, Scorpio lends a complex mix of good humor, self-possession, and deep insight. Scorpios may sometimes appear to be suspicious and calculating, but often they can come up with the perfect solution to the thorniest of problems.

Honest and forthright, a major Scorpian failing is an occasional descent into self-righteousness - and woe to anyone who feels the sting of Scorpion retribution whenever crossed.

While more easy-going signs such as Libra or Pisces may brush off a personal offense or injury, Scorpios tend to hold on to resentment long after others have forgotten about it. In love, Scorpio's all-or-nothing attitude makes for a very fiery and passionate partner, and once domesticated they are usually honorably devoted to family and loved ones.

Born to pursue what's right and just, their personal integrity quite often makes them rock-solid friends and business partners. With their tremendous concentration and problem-solving ability, Scorpios can excel at detective work, financial analysis, scientific research or any career that calls upon their intense gaze and almost supernatural analytical strengths.



♐ Sagittarius

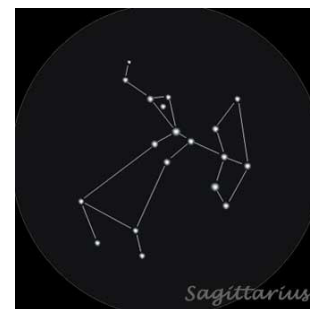
## Sagittarius (November 23 - December 22)



The ninth sign of the Zodiac, Sagittarius is among anyone's circle of friends the dynamic and adventurous "character" who tends to successfully balance fierce loyalty to loves ones with an equally intense independent streak. With a fiery intelligence, good humor and quick wit, Sagittarians are the most vital of the astrological signs and tend to enjoy robust health and long lives.

Born under the lucky planet of Jupiter, their *modus operandi* is adventure that, if overdone, may result in misfortune through accidents or from impulsiveness or impatience with those around them. Sometimes quick to anger, they are known for a notoriously biting sarcasm and sharp tongue, a chief Sagittarian failing. However, their general open-heartedness and cheerful outlook usually sees them through any social or physical mishap.

Talkative and welcoming, Sagittarians make for excellent traveling companions and will pack their bags at a moment's notice for a journey to any far-flung location.



In love, they can be showy and quite flirtatious, but once settled are fiercely devoted and a bulwark of optimism through any rough patches. Excellent communicators, Sagittarians usually shine in any kind of public service, teaching, exploring, traveling, or in the marketing or advertising field.

## ♄ Capricorn



### Capricorn (December 22 - January 20)

Capricorn, the tenth sign of the Zodiac, is marked by patience, sure-footedness and an ambition to reach the top no matter how long it takes! Like their symbol, the Goat, they like to proceed at a steady pace and are stubbornly methodical in reaching their goals. Inwardly quiet and shy, their feelings take second place to a well thought-out plan for success, and they make good managers or business leaders where the spotlight is not on them, but on their often hard-won results.

Usually impeccably though conservatively dressed, they prefer the finer things in life - as long as they are not flashy or draw too much attention. Similar to other earth signs with which they are most compatible, the Capricorn personality is essentially quite serious and perhaps too materialistic for their own good as they focus all their "workaholic" energies on a single goal. Capricorns are usually good providers, however, and with loved ones and close friends are dependable, loyal and steadfast.

In their careers, they like routine, although they much prefer working alone within the privacy of their own workplace, and without the social networking or interruptions of an office setting. Ambitious, trustworthy and practical, the Capricorn makes for an excellent bank officer, money manager or accountant.



## ♒ Aquarius



### Aquarius (January 21 - February 19)

Born under the eleventh sign of the Zodiac, the Aquarian is most noted for "raging against the machine" with a constant longing for freedom from the staid ways of polite society. While remaining clear-eyed and practical, they idealistically follow their own star and are most admirable for championing the underdog and exhibiting an open-minded tolerance for people in all walks of life.

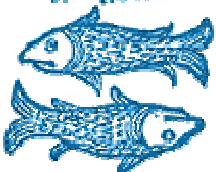
Basically friendly and affable, Aquarians typically fall into two personality types, one shy and self-effacing and the other more vocal and extraverted. Both possess strong personal integrity and hold definite opinions of right and wrong as they abjectly refuse to follow the crowd. All Aquarians may seem cold and aloof at first, but once they let their defenses down they can be the most inspiring and entertaining of friends.

Negative aspects of the Aquarian personality profile resemble those of Scorpio, whose anger may boil over into vengefulness whenever they feel they have been wronged. Railing against the ills of society, Aquarians may also in extreme cases tend toward radical and dangerous eccentricity as they completely detach from a world they no longer wish to understand.

The more outgoing Aquarian is noted for a certain flair for drama, and may excel as an expert mimic or character actor. Teaching, medical research, social work, the arts, or any type of work in which they can help advance society as a whole often proves to be promising career paths for the progressive Aquarian.



## ♓ Pisces



### Pisces (February 20 - March 20)

The twelfth and last sign, Pisces is symbolized by The Fish, and is most noted for being the most spiritually sensitive of any in the Zodiac. Known most for their kindness and gentleness, Pisces are always willing to lend a sympathetic ear and emotional support along with more practical help to anyone in need. As a result of their non-threatening demeanor and open acceptance of people in all walks of life, Pisces often enjoy wide popularity among a variety of friends in the social strata.

Emotional and intuitive, the Pisces personality is often drawn to religions that stress the mystical and unknowable as opposed to those offering more direct personal comfort. "What goes around comes around" is a

favorite Pisces motto, and they are more apt to worry about other's problems more than their own in the belief that taking care of those around them results in "good karma," and that their own needs will be met in their proper place and time.

In love, Pisces usually tend not to display the same fiery passion of a Leo or Sagittarius, but are gentle and considerate, often showing extreme devotion and faithfulness to their family and loved ones.

Negative aspects include a certain misty quality that makes them less able to cope with the realities of the everyday world, and especially in their youth Pisces are apt to lose their way in daydreaming or, at worst, descend into drug and alcohol abuse.

As adults, Pisces come to fully accept their spiritual responsibilities and tend toward careers in the clergy, as counselors, social workers or medical professionals. Creative endeavors, as well, are at the forefront of many Piscean careers including those in music, art and literature. Also well-suited for professional travel, which in this aspect, Pisces can satisfy their wanderlust for exotic, faraway places.

