

Rising Signs: The Medieval Science of Astrology Digital Interactive

Gallery View:



What's Your Medieval Horoscope?

Your sun sign might be different today than it would have been in the Middle Ages, when each sign of the zodiac was instead assigned to a full month. Each medieval month was an astrological season that was believed to be a good time for doing certain activities and a bad time for doing others. People born during each month, and by extension, under each one of the twelve zodiac signs, were believed to have a particular kind of humoral balance, a combination of the four main fluids in the body: yellow bile, black bile, phlegm, and blood. Humoral balance helped determine personality type and a predisposition toward ailments of particular kinds but could be affected by a wide variety of practical factors, including one's recommended daily diet. Use the interactive below to find your medieval sign, explore zodiac images, find out what to do/not do during your astrological season, and how to balance out your natural humors.

What's your medieval sign?

Choose the month of your birth to find out where you really stood in the medieval zodiac. Check your humors: what bodily fluids might have been out of whack? Find out what to eat and what to avoid. Have plans? Make sure the time is right.

January
AQUARIUS
Water-Bearer

Temperament and Humoral Tendency
Sanguine (an excess of blood)
Hot and Moist

Problem Areas

Things to Eat

Things to Avoid Eating

Best Month For

← Introduction | January | Home | Settings

Each month included medieval manuscript images and a drop-down menu to explore aspects of each medieval sign. Included on the top right was a view of the corresponding constellation. All content was available in English and Spanish.

January AQUARIUS Water-Bearer

Menu Drop-Downs

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Sanguine (an excess of blood)
Hot and moist

Problem Areas

Weak ankles
Circulation problems

Things to Eat

Lemons

Vinegar

Things to Avoid Eating

Basil

Sugar

Butter

Peacock

Lamb

Suggested Activities

Feasting (pictured left)

Building houses

Sowing

Planting

Bloodletting

Short-term projects

Buying and selling cattle and other animals with four feet

Weddings

Sending letters



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

February

PISCES

Two Fish

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Phlegmatic (an excess of phlegm)

Cold and moist

Problem Areas

Ailments in the feet—bunions, foot pain

Things to Eat

Rice

Mint

Parsley

Cloves
Capers
Rosemary
Olives
Rabbit
Salt
Pepper
Goat
Garlic
Onions

Things to Avoid Eating

Cucumbers
Lettuce
Fish
Pork
Veal

Suggested Activities

Warming by a fire (pictured left)
Building new houses
Sowing
Planting
Intercourse
Things having to do with water
Building watermills
Battling
Selling
Buying things



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

March
ARIES
Ram

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Choleric (an excess of yellow bile)
Hot and dry

Problem Areas

Ailments in the head, face, eyes—headaches, migraines, baldness

Things to Eat

Cucumbers
Lettuce
Fish

Pork
Veal

Things to Avoid Eating

Rice
Mint
Parsley
Cloves
Capers
Rosemary
Olives
Rabbit
Salt
Pepper
Goat
Garlic
Onions

Suggested activities

Pruning trees (pictured left)
Traveling east
Things having to do with fire
Bloodletting
Short-term projects
Weddings
Making new clothes
Sending letters
Pilgrimages



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

April TAURUS Bull

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Melancholic (an excess of black bile)

Cold and dry

Problem Areas

Ailments in the neck, ears, throat—sore throats, earaches

Things to Eat

Basil

Sugar

Butter

Peacock

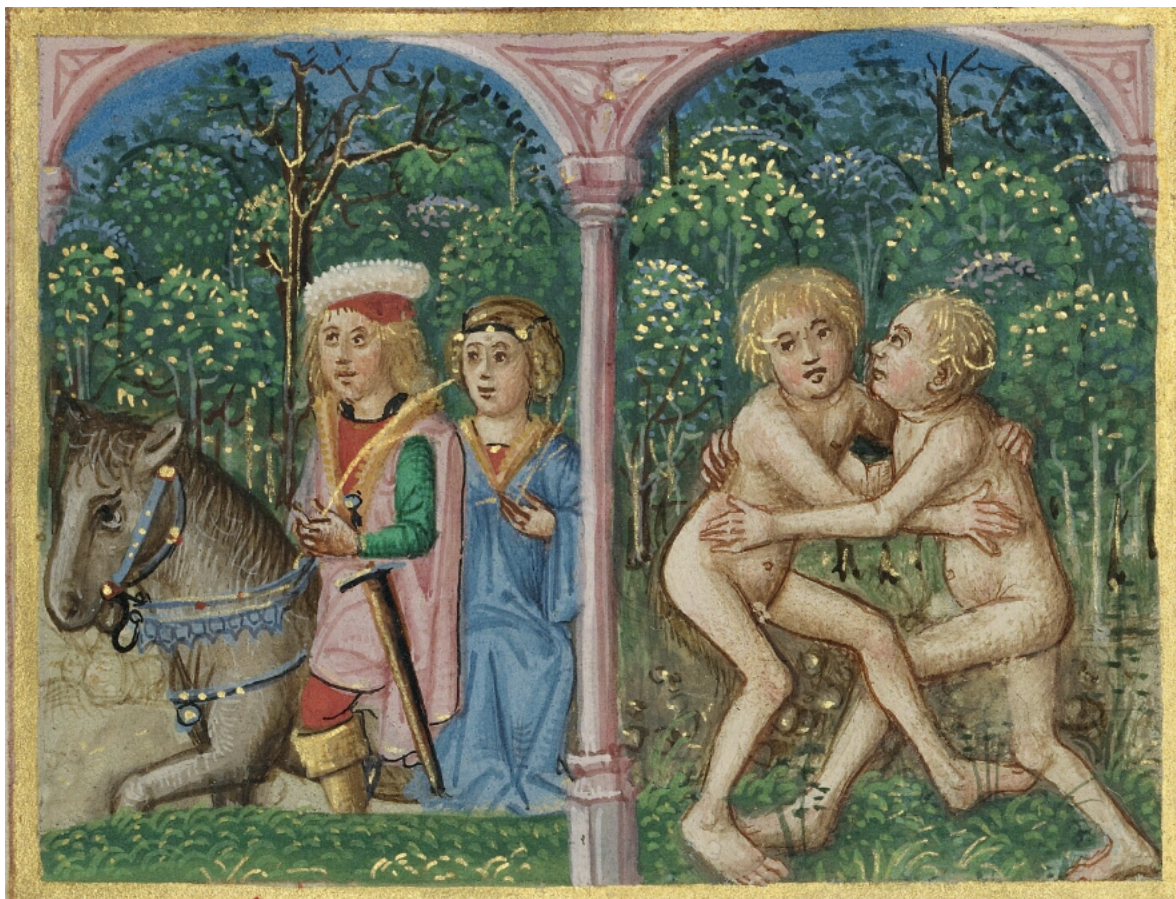
Lamb

Things to Avoid Eating

Vinegar
Lemons

Suggested Activities

Hawking (pictured left)
Long-term projects
Building houses
Getting married
Planting trees and vineyards
Taking medicine
Holding court days



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

May

GEMINI

Twins

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Sanguine (an excess of blood)
Hot and moist

Problem Areas

Ailments in the lungs, shoulders, arms—colds, coughs, respiratory problems

Things to Eat

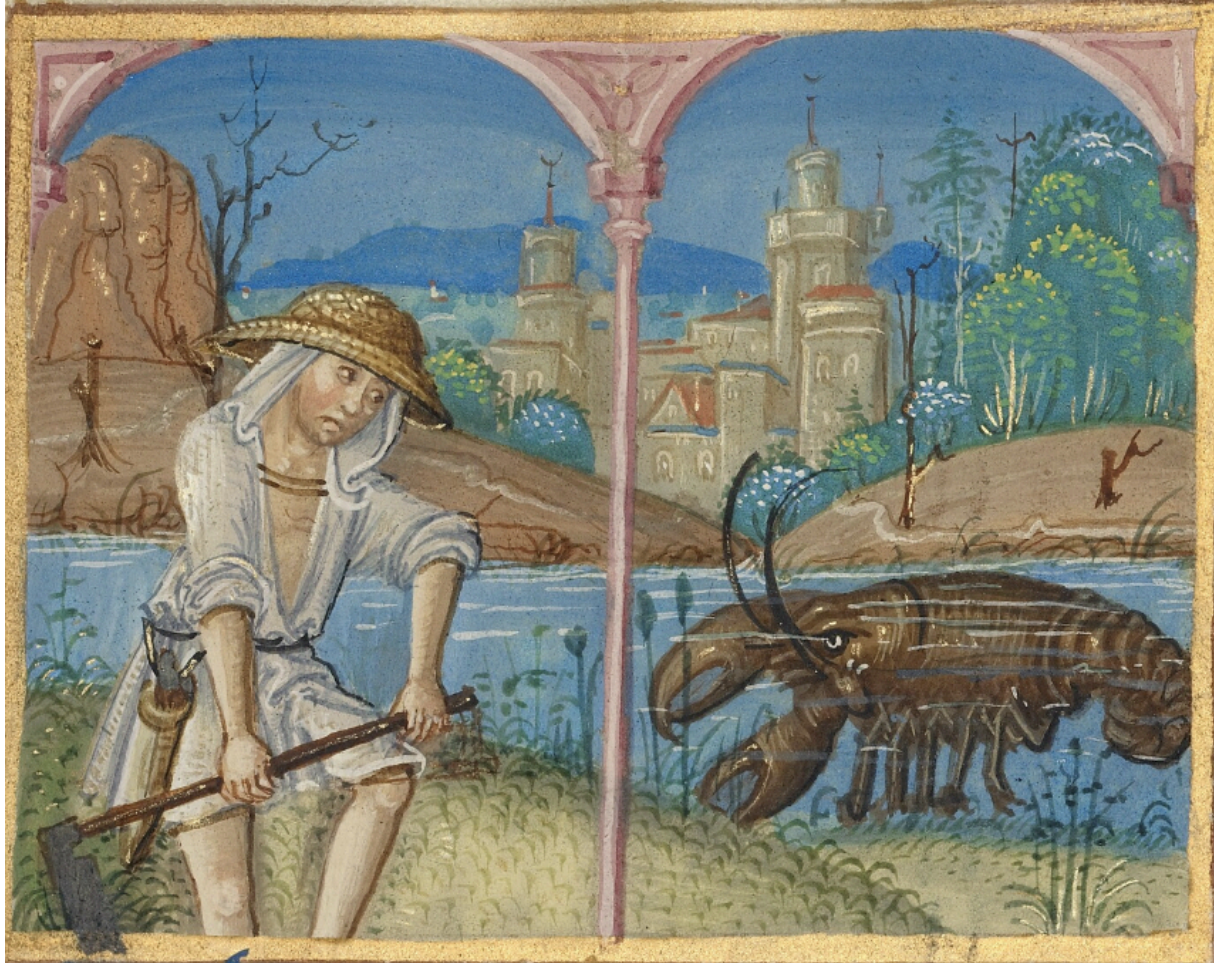
Vinegar
Lemons

Things to Avoid Eating

Basil
Sugar
Butter
Peacock
Lamb

Suggested Activities

Courting and romance (pictured left)
Forging new friendships
Reconciling
Pilgrimages
Moving houses
Holding court days with lords and monarchs
Sending messages and requests for things
Things having to do with water



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

June
CANCER
Lobster/Crab

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Phlegmatic (an excess of phlegm)

Cold and moist

Problem Areas

Ailments in the chest, stomach—digestive issues

Things to Eat

Rice

Mint

Parsley

Cloves
Capers
Rosemary
Olives
Rabbit
Salt
Pepper
Goat
Garlic
Onions

Things to Avoid Eating

Cucumbers
Lettuce
Fish
Pork
Veal

Suggested Activities

Mowing (pictured left)
Fighting and arguing
Traveling north
Building watermills
Sending letters
Bloodletting from the arms



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

July
LEO
Lion

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Choleric (an excess of yellow bile)

Hot and dry

Problem Areas

Ailments in the heart, back spine, blood—circulatory issues, heart problems

Things to Eat

Cucumbers

Lettuce

Fish

Pork
Veal

Things to Avoid Eating

Rice
Mint
Parsley
Cloves
Capers
Rosemary
Olives
Rabbit
Salt
Pepper
Goat
Garlic
Onions

Suggested Activities

Reaping (pictured left)
Speaking with lords and monarchs
Short-term projects
Battles
Sending messages
Planting trees
Weddings
Taking medicine for the stomach, heart, and liver



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

August
VIRGO
Young Woman/Virgin

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Melancholic (an excess of black bile)

Cold and dry

Problem Areas

Abdomen

Intestines

Stomach ailments

Ulcers

Things to Eat

Vinegar

Lemons

Things to Avoid Eating

Basil

Sugar

Butter

Peacock

Lamb

Suggested Activities

Threshing (pictured left)

Anything having to do with the earth, including sowing and planting

Following desires

Intercourse with widows

Building

Moving into new houses



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

September
LIBRA
Pair of Scales

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Sanguine (an excess of blood)
Hot and moist

Problem Areas

Ailment in the kidneys
Digestive problems

Things to Eat

Vinegar
Lemons

Things to Avoid Eating

Basil
Sugar
Butter
Peacock
Lamb

Suggested Activities

Sowing (pictured left)
Traveling east on business
Bloodletting
Short-term projects



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

October SCORPIO Scorpion

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Phlegmatic (an excess of phlegm)

Cold and moist

Problem Areas

Ailments in the bladder, genitalia—urinary issues, sexually-transmitted diseases

Things to Eat

Rice

Mint

Parsley

Cloves

Capers
Rosemary
Olives
Rabbit
Salt
Pepper
Goat
Garlic
Onions

Things to Avoid Eating

Cucumbers
Lettuce
Fish
Pork
Veal

Suggested Activities

Treading grapes (pictured left)
Battling
Fighting
Taking medicine



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

November

SAGITTARIUS

Centaur/Archer

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Choleric (an excess of yellow bile)

Hot and dry

Problem Areas

Ailments in the hips, thighs

Musculatory system issues

Things to Eat

Cucumbers

Lettuce

Fish

Pork
Veal

Things to Avoid Eating

Rice
Mint
Parsley
Cloves
Capers
Rosemary
Olives
Rabbit
Salt
Pepper
Goat
Garlic
Onions

Suggested Activities

Gathering acorns for pigs (pictured left)
Reconciling with enemies
Getting married
Bloodletting from the arms
Bathing
Anything to do with fire
Buying land and horses



[Manuscript image only; see above for typical interactive layout]

December **CAPRICORN** **Sea Goat**

Temperament and Humoral Tendency

Melancholic (an excess of black bile)

Cold and dry

Problem Areas

Ailments in the knees, bones—broken bones, knee joint problems

Things to Eat

Basil

Sugar

Butter

Peacock
Lamb

Things to Avoid Eating

Vinegar
Lemons

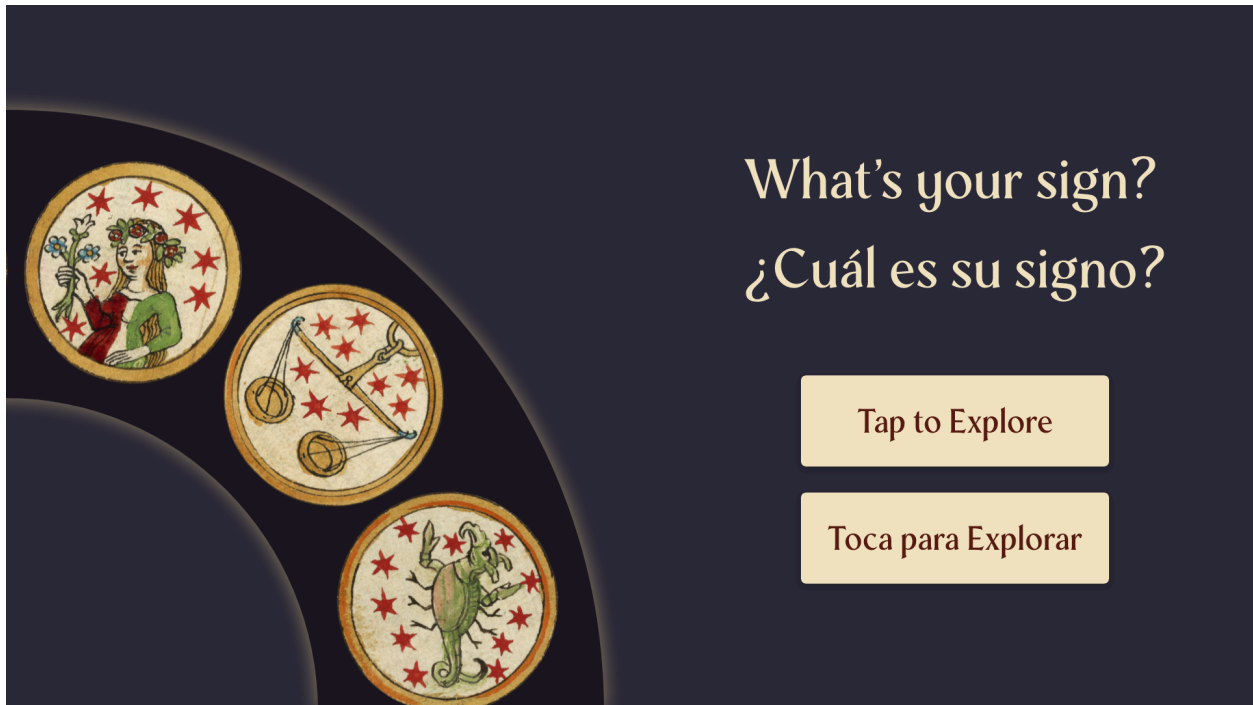
Suggested Activities

Baking bread (pictured left)
Sowing
Planting
Traveling north
Short-term projects
Bloodletting

All images from:

Strasbourg Book of Hours, French, early 1500s, Unknown maker. Tempera colors on parchment. [Museum], Ms. Ludwig IX 16


Select screenshots from the Digital Interactive presented on in-gallery kiosks:
Attract Screen



Start Screen



January Content Screen 1




A medieval manuscript illustration of the zodiac sign Aquarius. On the left, a king in a blue and red robe sits at a table with a white tablecloth, holding a golden chalice. A woman in a pink dress stands behind him, also holding a chalice. On the right, a winged, nude figure (the Water-Bearer) pours water from a golden vessel into a stream. In the background, a castle with towers sits on a hill under a blue sky. The scene is framed by a pink and gold archway.

AQUARIUS *Circumcisio dñi*
b & nō Octava sancti Stephani
c & nō Octava scti Iohannis evan^{te}
x + - Octava scti Innocentium

← Select Your Birth Month | January

AQUARIUS


Water-Bearer



- ^ Temperament & Humoral Tendency
 - Sanguine (an excess of blood)
 - Hot and moist
- ✓ Problem Areas
- ✓ Things to Eat
- ✓ Things to Avoid Eating
- ✓ Suggested Activities

Home | Settings

January Content Screen 2




A medieval manuscript illustration of the zodiac sign Aquarius. On the left, a king in a blue and red robe sits at a table with a white tablecloth, holding a golden chalice. A woman in a pink dress stands behind him, also holding a chalice. On the right, a winged, nude figure (the Water-Bearer) pours water from a golden vessel into a stream. In the background, a castle with towers sits on a hill under a blue sky. The scene is framed by a pink and gold archway.

AQUARIUS *Circumcisio dñi*
b & nō Octava sancti Stephani
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x + - Octava scti Innocentium

← Select Your Birth Month | January

AQUARIUS


Water-Bearer



- ✓ Temperament & Humoral Tendency
- ^ Problem Areas
 - Weak ankles
 - Circulation problems
- ✓ Things to Eat
- ✓ Things to Avoid Eating
- ✓ Suggested Activities

Home | Settings

January Content Screen 3




AQUARIUS
Water-Bearer

- Temperament & Humoral Tendency
- Problem Areas
- Things to Eat**
 - Lemons
 - Vinegar
- Things to Avoid Eating
- Suggested Activities

← Select Your Birth Month | January

January Content Screen 4



AQUARIUS
Water-Bearer

- Temperament & Humoral Tendency
- Problem Areas
- Things to Eat
- Things to Avoid Eating**
 - Basil
 - Sugar
 - Butter
 - Peacock
 - Lamb
- Suggested Activities

← Select Your Birth Month | January

January Content Screen 5

AQUARIUS
Water-Bearer

- ✓ Temperament & Humoral Tendency
- ✓ Problem Areas
- ✓ Things to Eat
- ✓ Things to Avoid Eating
- ^ Suggested Activities
 - Feasting (pictured left)
 - Building houses
 - Sowing
 - Planting
 - Bloodletting
 - Short-term projects
 - Weddings
 - Buying and selling cattle and other animals with four feet
 - Sending letters

Select Your Birth Month | January

Select photos of the Digital Interactive in-gallery:
The two interactive touchscreen kiosks



