

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Constellation Hunt - February 2022

# ORION

Write the mythological story of Orion here (Look it up online or in Hamilton's *Mythology*):

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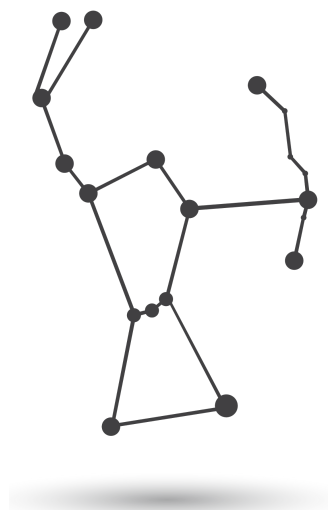
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Here is what Orion looks like:



### How to find it:

Face the east (where the sunrises) and look slightly to your right and up. What you will notice most is the “belt of Orion.” It is the three bright stars lined up. Below the belt are Orion’s feet – two bright stars spaced a little more apart from each other than the belt is wide. Above the belt are Orion’s hands. The one on your left is a bright reddish star. That is the red super giant Betelgeuse. It represents him holding a lion skin. The hand to your right is holding a bow. You should be able to see the curve of the bow. Just below the belt are three fainter stars forming an up/down line forming a sword or knife. The star in the middle is really not a star, but a nebula (a gaseous cloud in space that will probably form into a star). If you have a telescope and look at that middle sword star, you will be able to easily tell it is a nebula.

You need to show this constellation to an adult and then get him/her to sign below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
He/She showed me the constellation

\_\_\_\_\_  
We looked, but could not find the constellation

Are you looking from a very dark area? If so, you'll notice above Orion and faint hazy "river" flowing through the sky. You are looking at the Milky Way, part of our own galaxy.

Follow Orion's bow to see what he is shooting towards. You will see:

- A "V" shaped constellation just a little up from his bow and to the right. This is Taurus, the bull. (you really should NOT look up that story).
- Keep looking to the right and you will see a cluster of stars with not many stars around it. These are the Pleiades, or the seven sisters.

Bonus - show these two constellations to an adult and get him or her to sign:

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He/She showed me the constellations

**Read the article, ["Orion, Lord of the Sky," by Tony Flanders](#)**

1. What did the ancient Egyptians call this grouping of stars?
2. What did the Mesopotamians call this grouping of stars?
3. What did the Chinese call this grouping of stars?
4. What did the ancient Hindus call this grouping of stars?
5. What two names did the Pre-Islamic Arabs call this grouping of stars?
6. What constellation is the mortal enemy of Orion?

**2022 Bonus Points** - see if you can spot these - initial in the line if you do:

- **Jupiter** - the 2nd - Early evening - look to the west (where the sun sets) and a little to your left and you will see a sliver of the moon. Not too far above that will be a bright star - that is Jupiter \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sirius** - Look to the left of Orion's feet. You will see two stars, one very bright. That bright one is Sirius and is a part of the constellation Canis Major. It is also referred to as the dog star and, yes, J.K. Rowling named her dog-shapeshifting character after it. \_\_\_\_\_
- **Moon Bonus** - The full moon will be Feb. 16. What is the name of this full moon? \_\_\_\_\_