



ASTROLOGY

For Beginners

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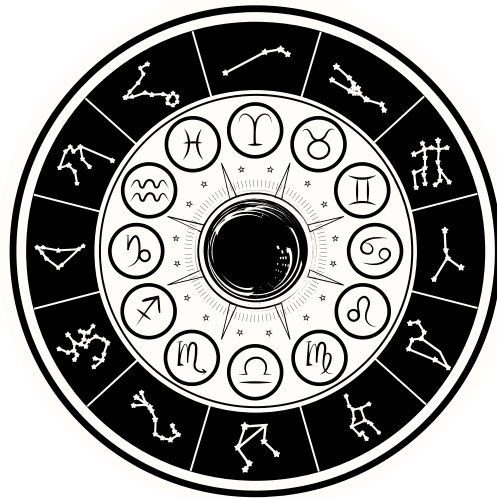
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WELCOME



GETTING STARTED

This course is your fun, engaging, and comprehensive introduction to the world of astrology. Whether you're totally new or you've dabbled a bit, you'll learn the foundational pieces—like planets, signs, houses, and how they all come together to tell the story of your natal chart.

Astrology can be a deeply personal and illuminating tool, helping you reflect on who you are, where you've been, and what you're here to explore.

HOW TO USE THIS COURSE

Astrology isn't about rigid rules or fixed predictions—it's more like a mirror or a map of potential. Use it as a tool for self-awareness and reflection, not a blueprint set in stone.

This course is designed to be simple, digestible, and empowering.

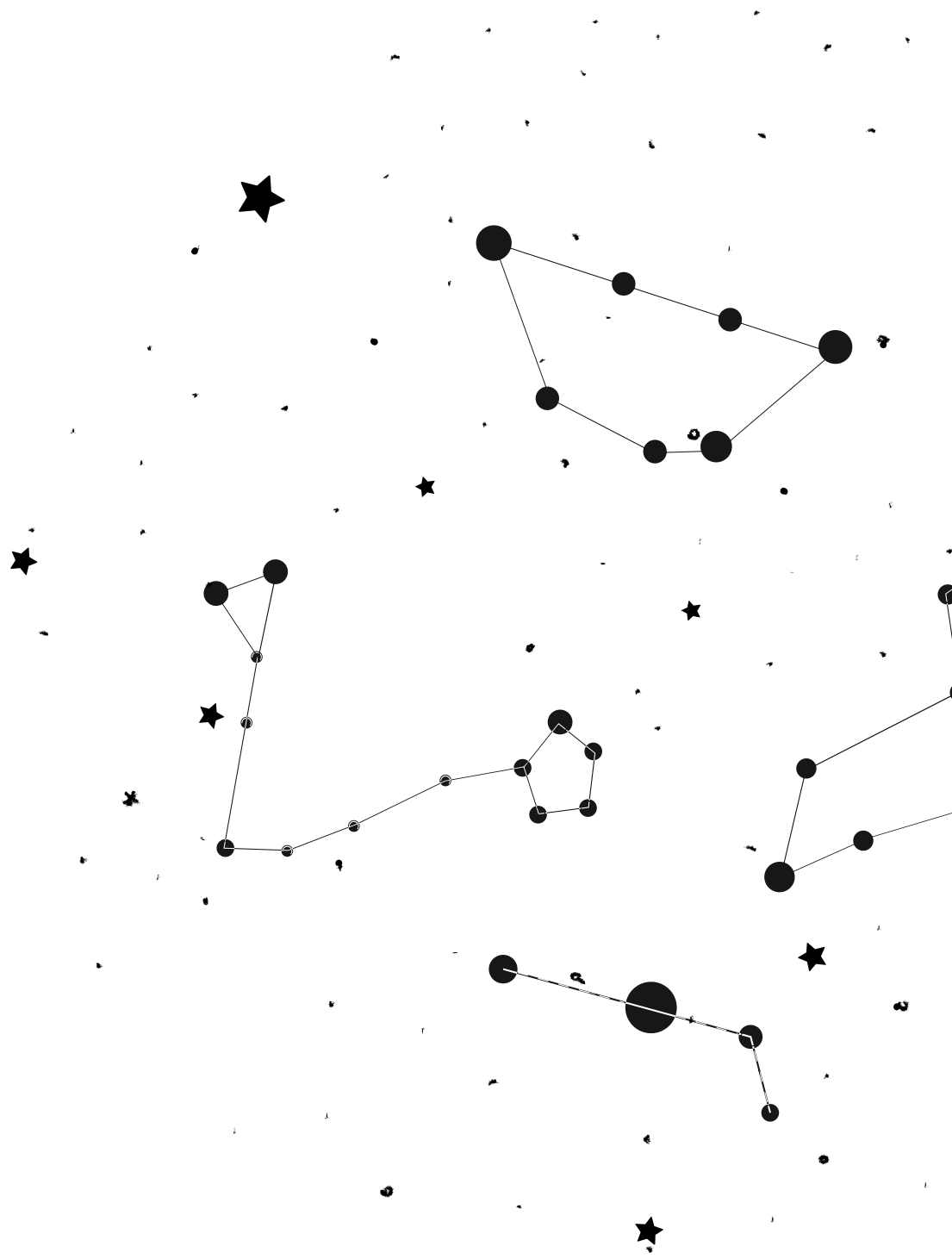
You'll learn through clear explanations, thoughtful questions, and activities that guide you in exploring your own chart.

There's no rush. Move at your own pace. Revisit sections that resonate. Use what feels meaningful and leave the rest.

A Few Tips as You Begin:

- Work with your natal chart in hand. Reference it often—it's your personal cosmic snapshot.
- Write it down. Use the activities to anchor what you're learning. It's one thing to read, another to engage.
- Stay curious. You don't need to memorize everything. Just notice what sparks interest or feels true.
- Revisit often. Astrology unfolds over time. The more you learn, the more you'll see.

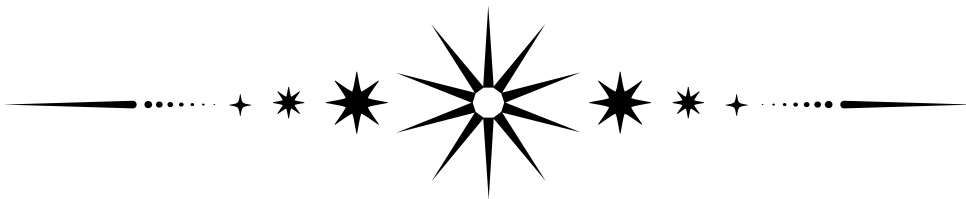
WHAT IS ASTROLOGY?



Astrology is the study of how the positions and movements of celestial bodies—planets, the Sun, and the Moon—are believed to affect human life and events on Earth. **It's not about fate but rather potential energies and themes** that might influence our lives.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Astrology is an ancient practice, dating back thousands of years. It emerged from humanity's fascination with the night sky and the realization that celestial movements seemed to correspond with changes on Earth, such as the seasons or significant events.

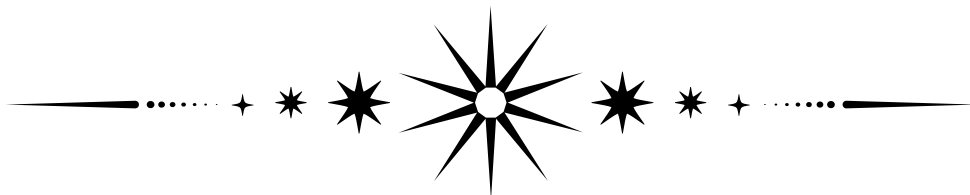


MESOPOTAMIA 2000 BCE

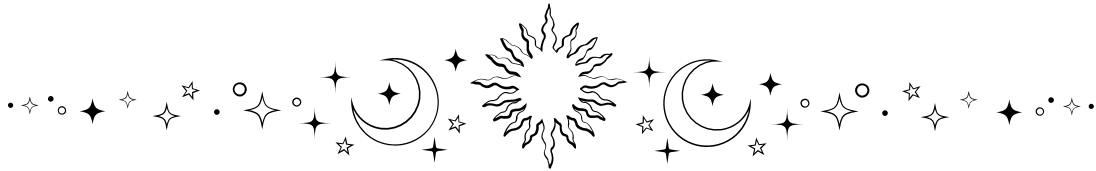
The earliest known records of astrology come from Babylon. Babylonian priests observed the stars and planets, making predictions about the weather, harvests, and even the fate of kings

ANCIENT EGYPT 1500 BCE

Egyptians were deeply connected to the cycles of the Sun and the Moon, using them to track time and align monuments like the pyramids. They also influenced the zodiac with their focus on constellations



A BRIEF HISTORY

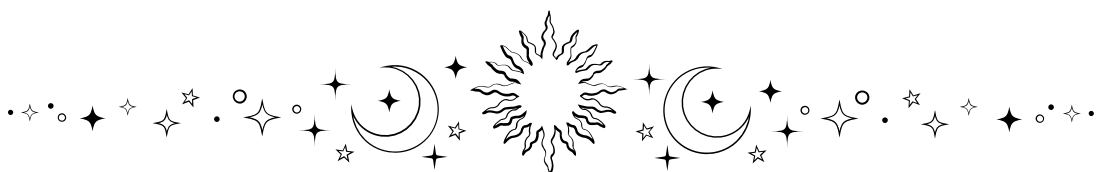


HELLENISTIC GREECE 200 BCE

Here, astrology was formalized into the system we use today. The Greeks combined Babylonian star lore with Egyptian knowledge, developing the zodiac signs, houses, and detailed interpretations of the planets.

MIDIEVAL EUROPE AND BEYOND

Astrology became intertwined with astronomy. Great thinkers like Ptolemy refined the system, and astrology was used to guide decisions by scholars and rulers.



THE COSMIC PLAY

Your Life's Stage

Imagine your natal chart as a grand production—your own personal cosmic play. Every element in astrology plays a distinct role in shaping your story:

- **The Planets:** These are **the actors** in your play, each representing different drives and energies. For instance, the Sun plays the role of identity and vitality, while Venus brings love and beauty to the scene. Each planet has a unique purpose, shaping how you experience life.
- **The Signs:** These are **the costumes** and personality traits the actors embody. Mercury (the planet) in Leo (the sign) will communicate boldly and dramatically, like a performer taking center stage, while Mercury in Virgo may be precise and analytical, delivering lines with careful attention to detail.
- **The Houses:** These represent **the stage** where the action unfolds. The same actor (or planet) might appear in different settings depending on where it's placed—if Venus is in the 10th house, themes of beauty and connection may play out in career and public life, while Venus in the 4th house brings these themes into the home and family.
- **Aspects:** These are **the dialogue** and scripted interactions between characters, shaping how they relate to each other. A trine (like an easy conversation between actors) allows for natural flow, while a square (a dramatic conflict) creates tension that fuels the storyline.

THE NATAL CHART

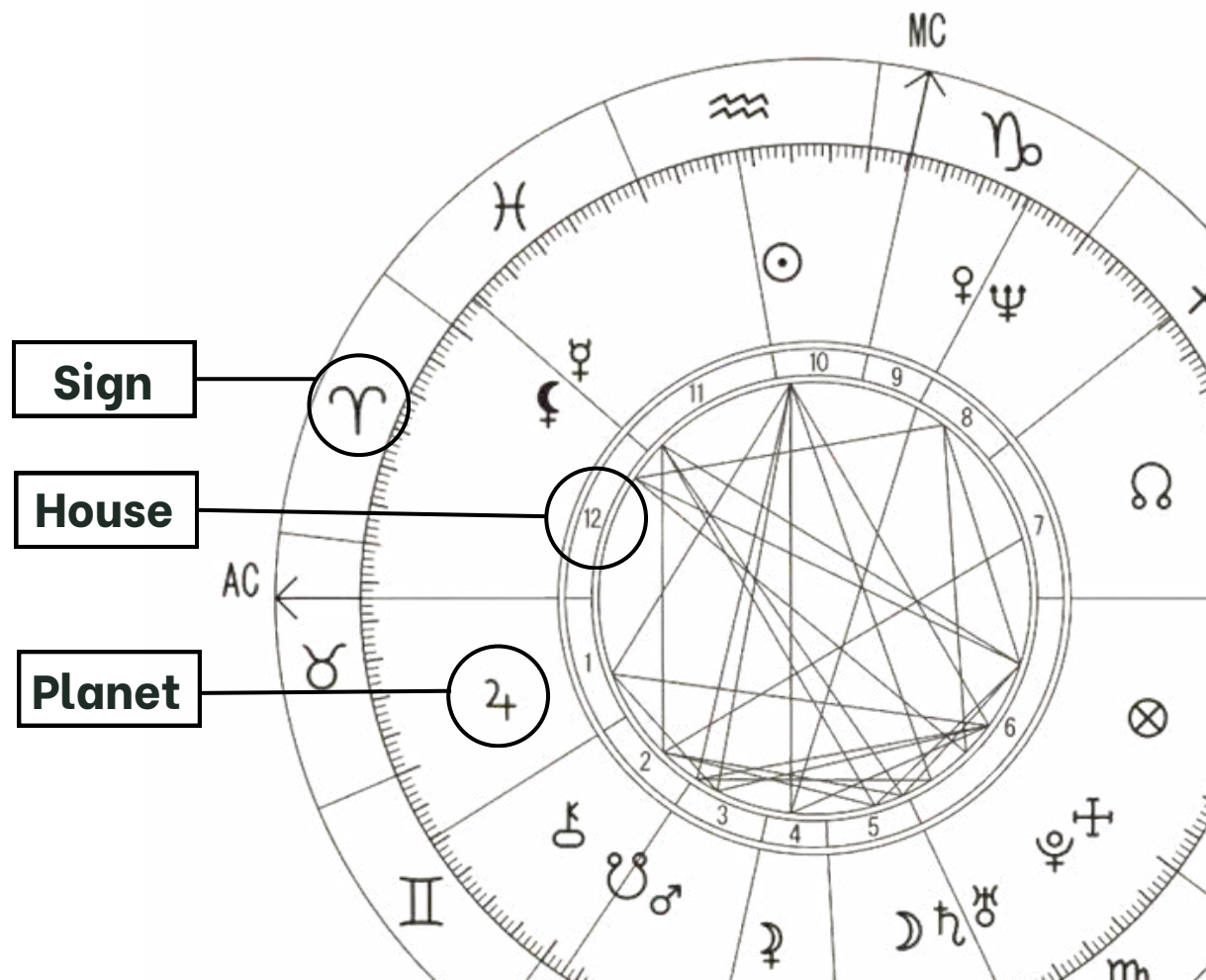
Your Celestial Snapshot

The natal chart is your astrological fingerprint, based on your exact time, date, and place of birth. It is a circular map of the sky, divided into 12 sections (houses) and marked by the positions of the planets in the zodiac signs.

How to Read a Natal Chart

- Outer Circle: Represents the 12 zodiac signs.
- Inner Circle: Divided into 12 houses.
- Planets: Plotted based on their positions at the time of your birth.

Imagine your natal chart as a snapshot of the sky when you were born, showing where each planet was located. This map helps us interpret your personality, strengths, challenges, and life themes.



MY NATAL CHART

Getting Started with Your Natal Chart

1. Generate Your Natal Chart

- a. To begin, use an astrology app or website to create your natal chart. A few free and user-friendly options include [Astro-seek.com](https://www.astro-seek.com), [Astro.com](https://www.astro.com), and Astro Future (app). Enter your date, time, and location of birth to generate your chart. Once you have it, keep it handy as you work through this course.
- b. Astro-seek.com
 - i. Select “Birth Chart”
- c. Astro.com
 - i. Select “Charts & Calculations”
 - ii. Select “Chart Drawing, Ascendent”
- d. Astro Future App
 - i. Download app
 - ii. Input in your birth information

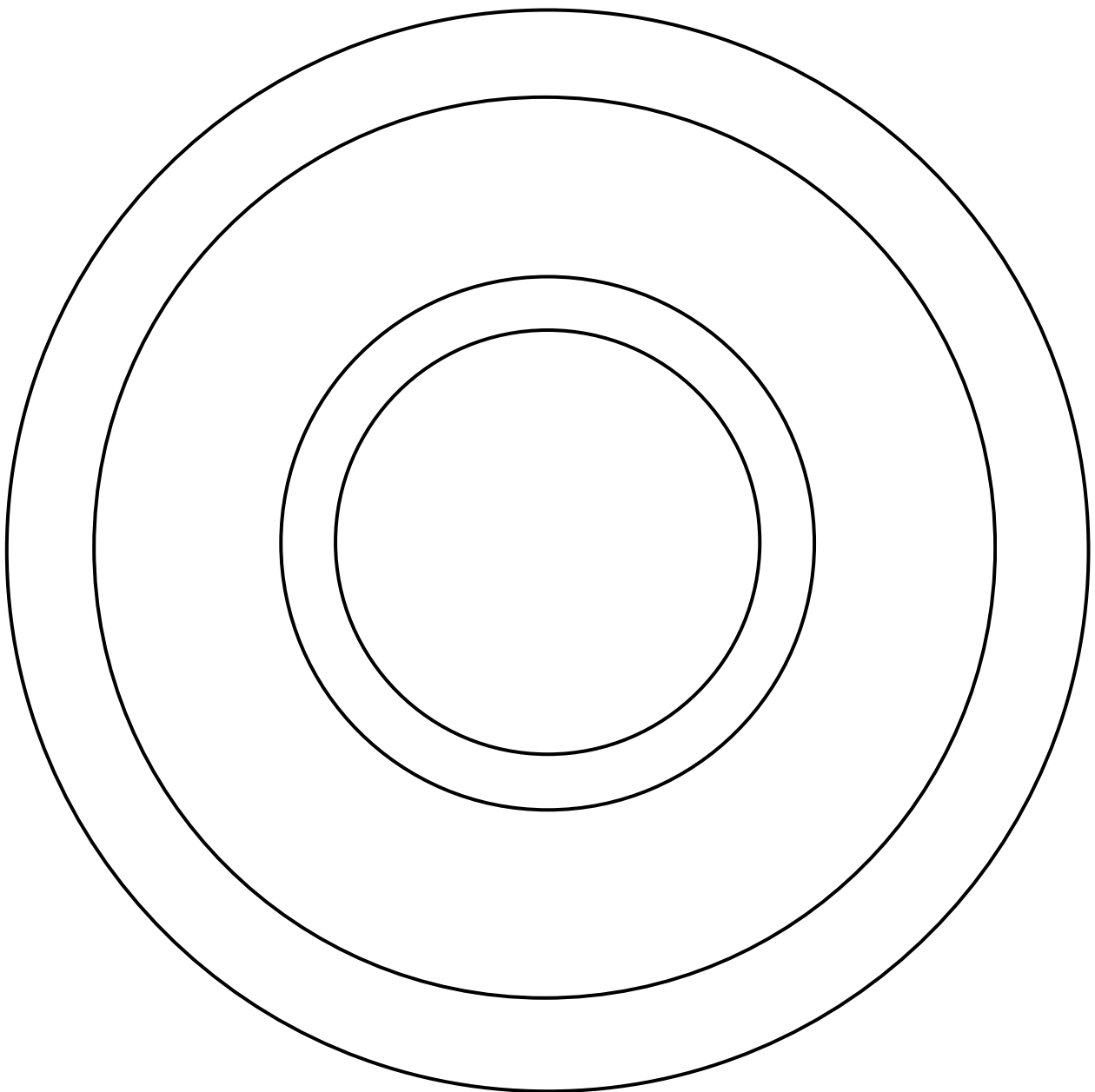
2. Your Natal Chart

- a. On the following page, pg. 11, you will find a blank natal chart, You will use this throughout the course to fill in your unique chart placements. You will come back to this page throughout the entire course. Extra charts are located in the back of the workbook.
























MY NATAL CHART

Name _____ Birth date _____

Birth Time _____ Location _____



REFERENCE SHEET

| Planets | Symbol | Signs | Symbol |
|---------|---|-------------|---|
| Sun |  | Aries |  |
| Moon |  | Taurus |  |
| Mercury |  | Gemini |  |
| Venus |  | Cancer |  |
| Mars |  | Leo |  |
| Jupiter |  | Virgo |  |
| Saturn |  | libra |  |
| Uranus |  | Scorpius |  |
| Neptune |  | Sagittarius |  |
| Pluto |  | Capricorn |  |
| Chiron |  | Aquarius |  |
| | | Pisces |  |

THE HOUSES

Your Life's Stage

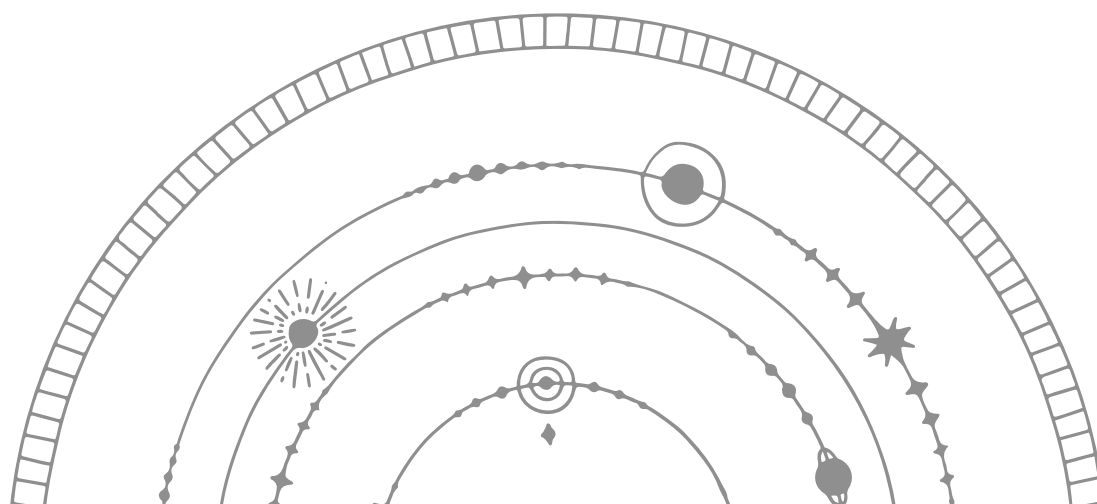
The natal chart is divided into 12 sections, each representing different areas of life, known as houses.

The 12 houses are derived from the Earth's 24-hour rotation on its axis. The entire circle of the sky (360°) is divided into 12 sections, representing different areas of life.

In astrology, the twelve houses represent different areas of life, each associated with specific themes and experiences. The concept of dividing the sky into twelve segments dates back to ancient civilizations, where astrologers observed the apparent movement of celestial bodies and correlated them with human affairs. Each house corresponds to a 30-degree segment of the 360-degree celestial sphere, reflecting the Earth's 24-hour rotation and the cyclical nature of life.

* In many natal charts, the houses are not always divided into perfect 30-degree sections. See pg. 65 for more details on why houses may be uneven in size.

The number 12 was chosen because of its deep connection to time and nature—think of the 12 months, 12 zodiac signs, and 12 cycles of the Moon in a year.



THE HOUSES

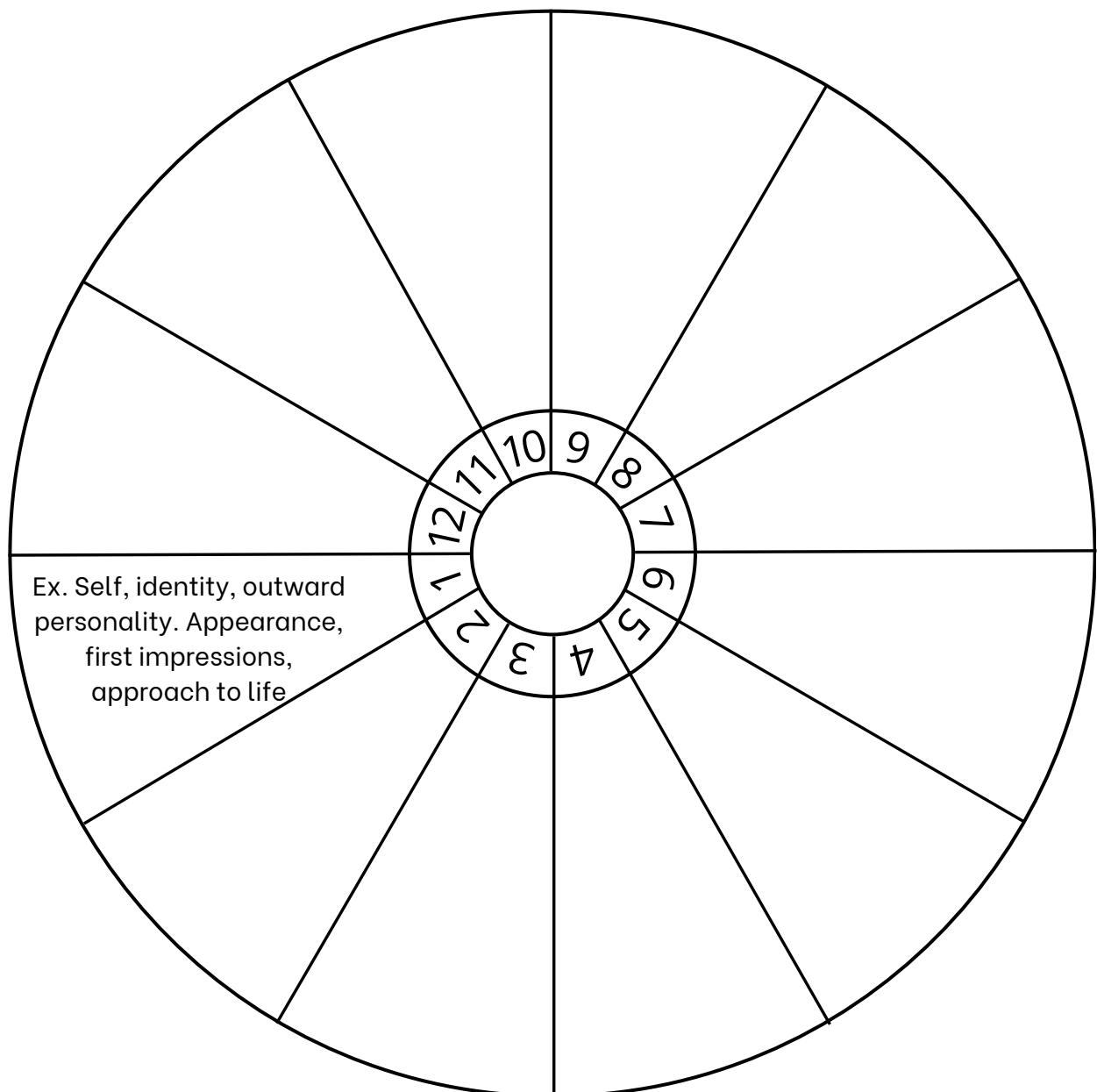
Use the chart below to fill in the natal chart on next page with the house, it's traits, and keywords . Taking time to write in the traits of each house will help you remember the traits.

Everyone has the same twelve houses in their chart, each representing a specific area of life—such as relationships, career, or home. While these themes remain constant for everyone, the zodiac signs that govern each house add unique qualities and influence how these life areas are experienced. In the next segment, we'll explore how the signs bring their distinct energy to each house, shaping your personal expression of these universal themes.

| House | Theme | Keywords |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1st House (Ascendant/Rising) | Self, identity, outward personality | Appearance, first impressions, approach to life |
| 2nd House | Values, money, self-worth | Finances, possessions, personal values |
| 3rd House | Communication, learning | Siblings, short trips, intellect |
| 4th House (IC) | Home, family, roots | Ancestry, foundation, inner security |
| 5th House | Creativity, pleasure, children | Romance, hobbies, playfulness |
| 6th House | Work, health, daily routine | Service, wellness, habits |
| 7th House (Descendant) | Partnerships, marriage | Relationships, contracts, close bonds |
| 8th House | Transformation, shared resources | Death, rebirth, intimacy, secrets |
| 9th House | Higher learning, philosophy, travel | Religion, exploration, wisdom |
| 10th House (MC) | Career, public image | Reputation, achievements, life goals |
| 11th House | Friends, community, hopes | Social networks, aspirations, humanitarian work |

THE HOUSES

Begin with house one which sits at 9 o'clock on the wheel, and move counterclockwise filling in each house with its theme and keywords. Each house governs different aspects of your life. As you move from 1-12 you will notice the journey of the soul from the individual (House 1) to the Collective (House 12)



MY NATAL CHART

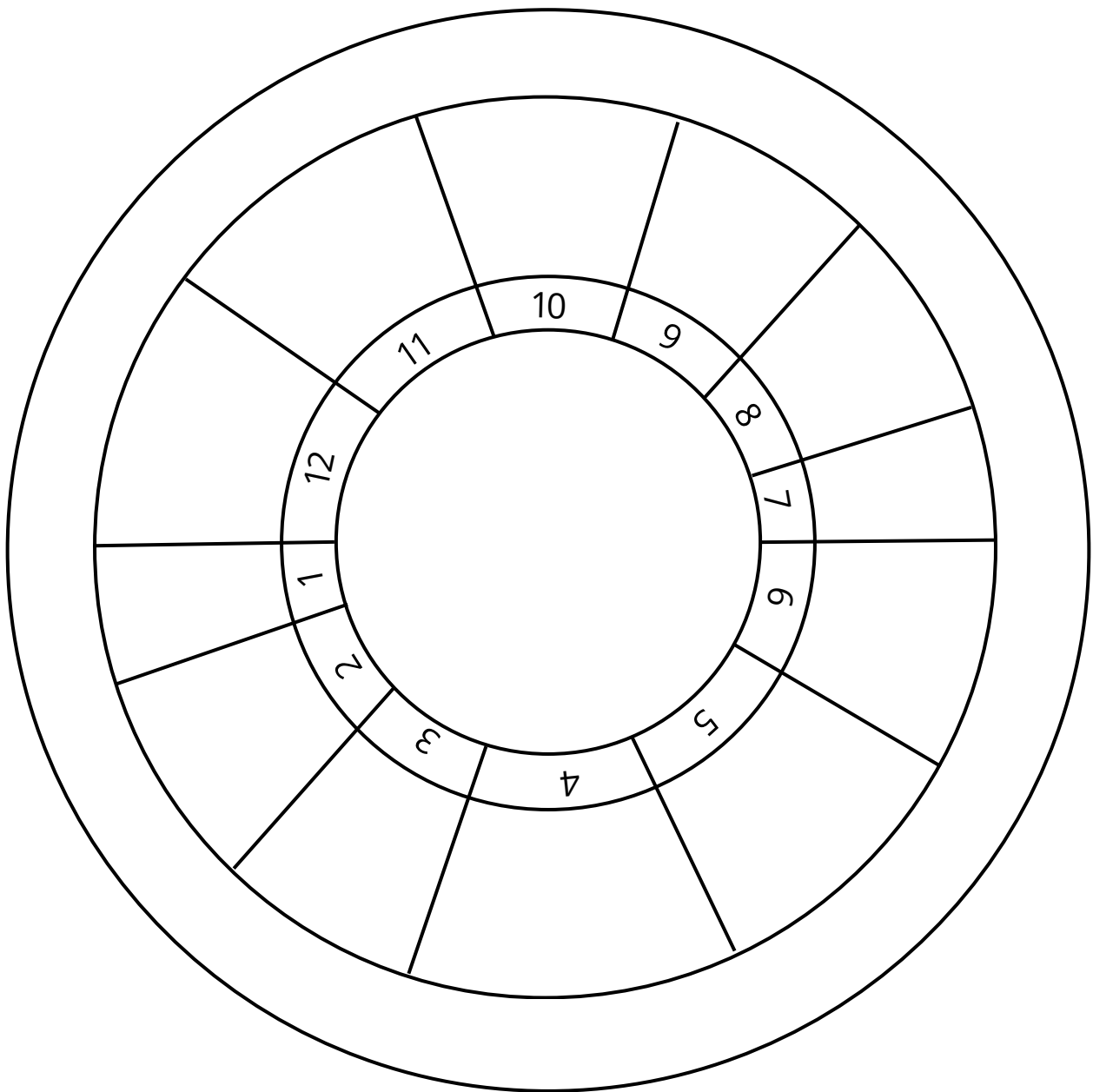
1. Activity: My Houses

- a. It's time to start filling in your personal natal chart! Using a digital version of your natal chart as a reference, draw lines to divide your chart into twelve sections and label them 1-12.
- b. Use the "Example: My Houses" for reference if needed.
- c. You may notice that the house segments are not all equal in size. To learn more about why this happens, see pg. 65 in the back of the workbook.

EXAMPLE THE HOUSES

Notice that the houses are different sizes.

The line that divides the houses goes through two circles.






THE SIGNS

Costumes of the Planets

The 12 zodiac signs act like costumes the planets wear, affecting how they express themselves. Each sign has its own personality traits and energies.

The zodiac signs are named after the constellations the Sun appeared to pass through in ancient times. These constellations were linked to mythological stories that embodied the traits of each sign. Over time, astrologers noticed that people born under these signs often shared certain characteristics, which led to the development of the personality archetypes we use today.

- Animals and Figures bring the zodiac signs to life, connecting them to ancient myths and archetypes.
- Symbols (Glyphs) are the modern shorthand used in astrology to make interpretation quick and precise.
- Together, they give us both a practical system for chart reading and a rich, symbolic language that taps into the collective unconscious.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>ARIES</p>    | <p>The Sign Name, usually linked to mythology</p> <p>The Symbol, or glyph you will see on your natal chart</p> <p>The Animal, for Aries the animal is the Ram</p> <p>The Constellation, the stars we see in the sky</p> |
|--|---|

THE SIGNS

Always In Order

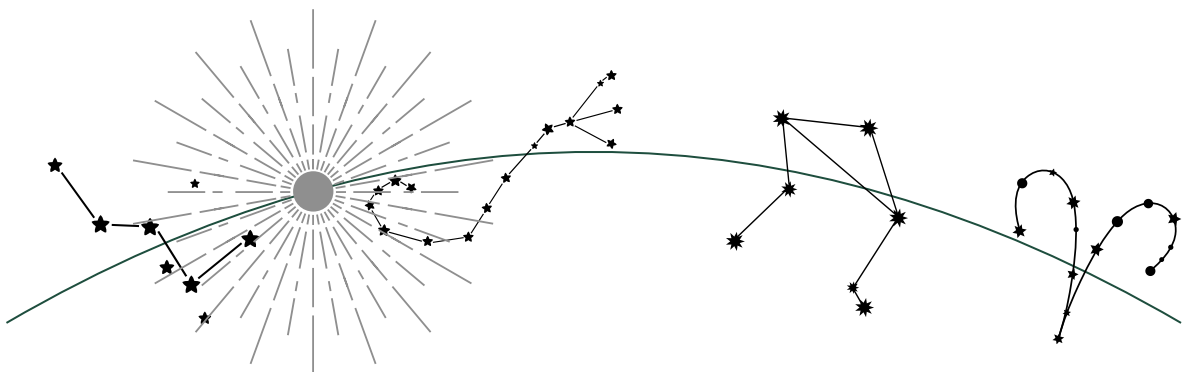
The Zodiac signs appear in the same order on every natal chart, Aries → Taurus → Gemini → Cancer → Leo → Virgo → Libra → Scorpio → Sagittarius → Capricorn → Aquarius → Pisces. However, their position or which house/houses they span will differ depending on birth time.

Why Are the Zodiac Signs Always in the Same Order?

Imagine you are standing outside, watching the night sky every evening for a year. As Earth orbits the Sun, different constellations slowly come into view just before sunrise, following a predictable cycle. Each month, a new zodiac constellation rises on the eastern horizon while the previous one moves out of sight. This steady transition—from Aries to Taurus to Gemini, and so on—is why the zodiac signs always appear in the same order.

On a much faster scale, because Earth rotates every 24 hours, the eastern horizon shifts roughly one zodiac sign every two hours. This means that even people born on the same day but at different times will have different Ascendants, which affects how the signs are arranged in their birth chart.

This dual movement—Earth’s daily rotation and yearly orbit—is what creates both the consistent sign order and the unique house placements in each natal chart.



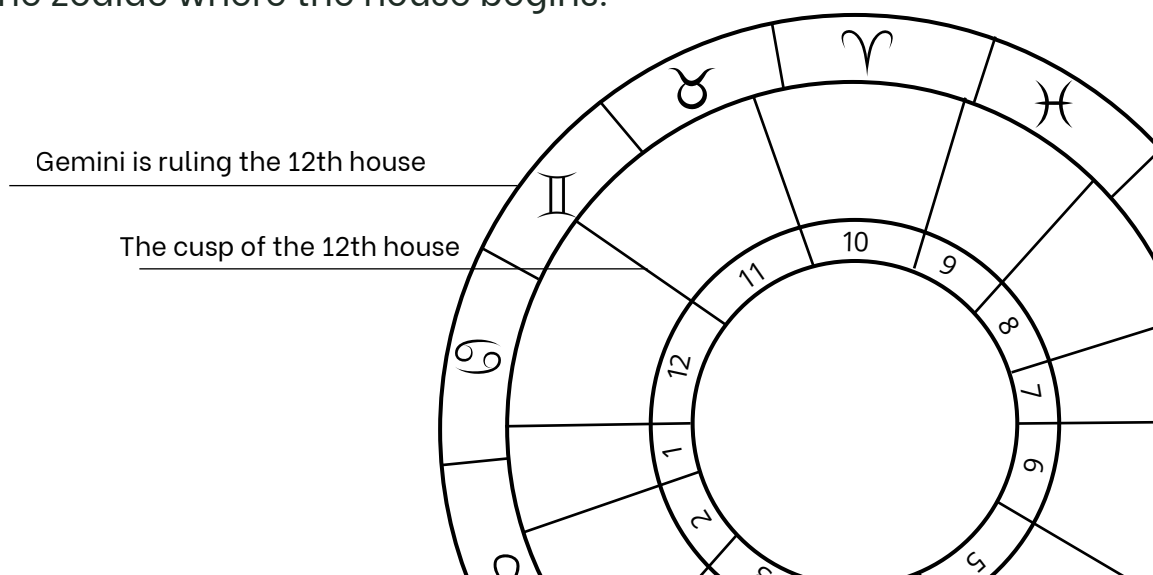
THE SIGNS

Rulers of the Houses and Planets

In astrology, each house in your natal chart is influenced by a zodiac sign—this influence is called ruling. The ruling sign of a house shapes how the themes of that house manifest in your life, coloring its expression with that sign’s traits and energy.

If using a Whole Sign House system, this is straightforward—each house aligns exactly with one full zodiac sign. However, in other house systems, such as Placidus, houses are not evenly divided, and a single house can contain multiple signs.

In these cases, the ruling sign of a house is determined by the sign on the cusp—the starting point of that house. The cusp marks the degree of the zodiac where the house begins.



Since house sizes can vary, some houses may contain an entire zodiac sign, while others may stretch across two or more signs. In rare cases, a sign may not appear on any house cusp at all—this is called an intercepted sign, meaning its energy is present but not as immediately obvious in the chart.

Understanding which sign rules each house helps clarify how that area of life expresses itself. The traits of the ruling sign influence the themes and experiences of the house it governs, adding depth to your personal astrology.

MY NATAL CHART

1. Activity: Discovering How Signs Influence Your Houses

a. In this activity, you'll take a closer look at how the zodiac signs in your chart interact with the 12 houses, each representing different areas of your life. By identifying which signs are linked to each house, you'll uncover clues about your natural tendencies, challenges, and strengths in these areas.

2. Fill in your Zodiac Signs

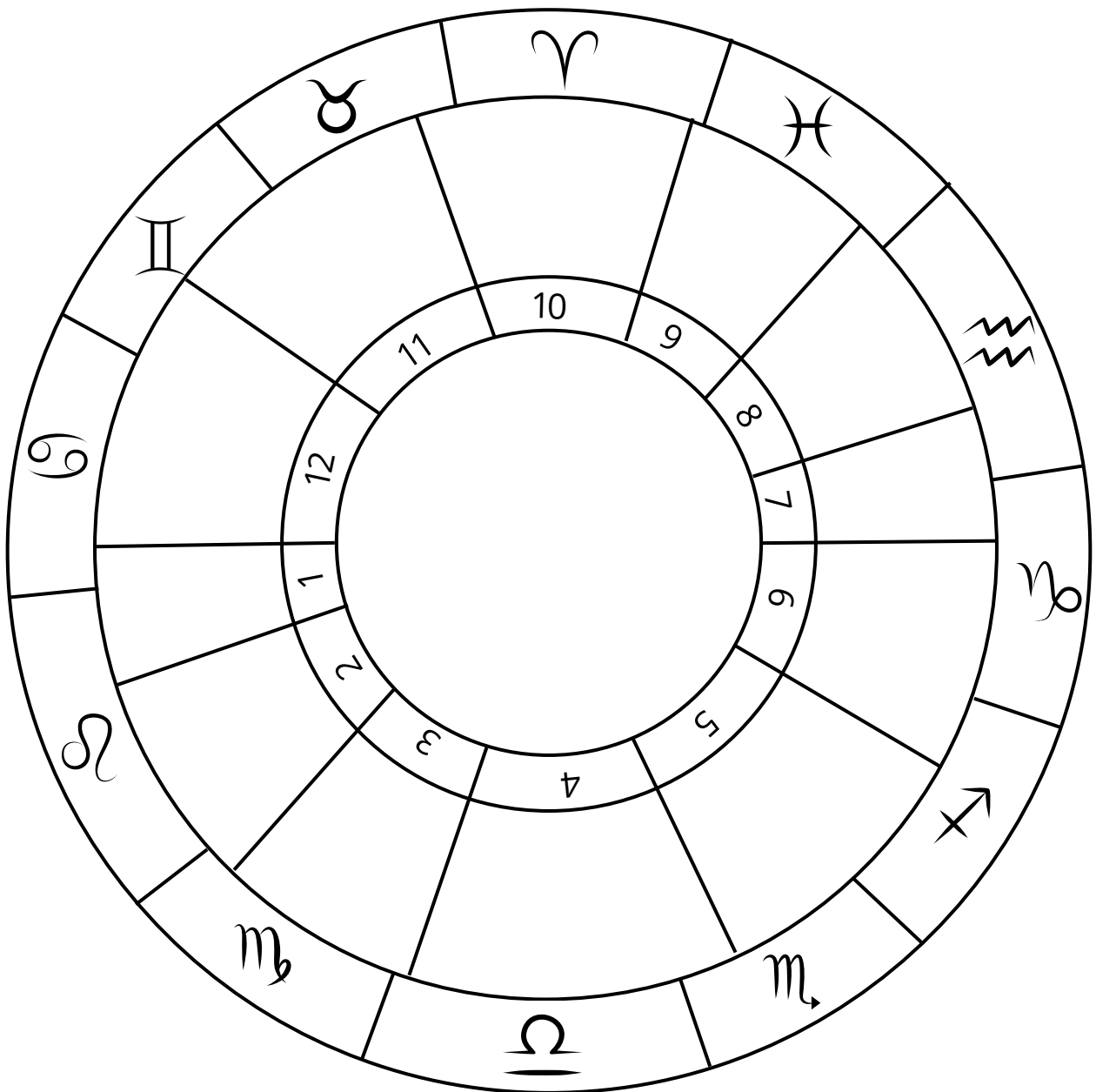
a. Your natal chart is divided into 12 houses, each representing different aspects of life. For now, you'll focus on filling in the zodiac signs where they are placed in your personal chart.

- After you read about each zodiac sign in this lesson, locate that sign on your natal chart. You might notice that your signs are off-center with the houses, meaning that some houses may have two signs associated with it.
- In the outer ring on your "My Natal Chart," pg 11 mark the section for each sign and draw the correct sign in each section. Look at the example on the next page for reference.
- Unlike the houses, each sign occupies an equal area on the outer ring of the birth chart.

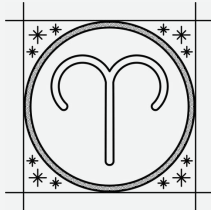
EXAMPLE THE SIGNS

Name _____ Birth date _____

Birth Time _____ Location _____



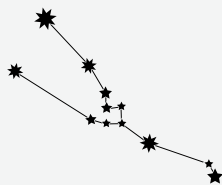
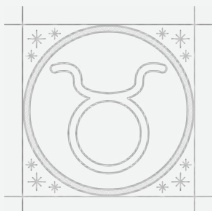
ARIES



The Trailblazer (The Ram)

Imagine standing at the edge of a vast, untamed wilderness, and there's Aries, leading the charge. As the first sign of the zodiac, Aries symbolizes new beginnings and embodies the pioneer spirit. **Bold, energetic, and courageous**, Aries is the warrior who charges forward without hesitation, fueled by **passion** and a desire to conquer. Represented by the Ram, it scales impossible heights with sheer determination. Aries teaches us to embrace life head-on, trust our instincts, and take initiative. They're **impulsive and independent**, valuing action over hesitation and thriving on challenges that allow them to prove their strength.

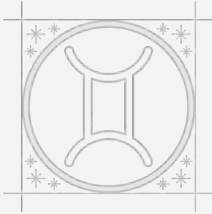
TAURUS



The Builder (The Bull)

Now, imagine a fertile field bathed in sunlight, where Taurus tends to the land with care and patience. Representing **stability and abundance**, Taurus is the zodiac's craftsman, **grounded and reliable**. The Bull symbolizes their **strength and persistence**, but also their love for the simple pleasures of life—food, beauty, and comfort. Taurus values security, whether in relationships, finances, or their environment, and they're known for their **determination and loyalty**. They remind us to slow down, savor the present moment, and create lasting foundations. While sometimes stubborn, their persistence ensures they achieve their goals.

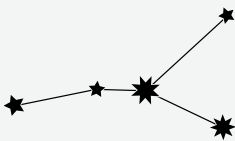
GEMINI



The Messenger (The Twins)

Picture two figures engaged in lively conversation, exchanging ideas with endless curiosity. That's Gemini, **the communicator** of the zodiac, represented by the Twins. Their duality symbolizes their ability to see multiple perspectives and adapt quickly to new situations. Geminis are **witty, versatile, and eternally curious**, flitting from one topic to another like a butterfly. They remind us of the power of words and the importance of **connection**. With their quick minds and restless energy, they thrive on learning and sharing knowledge, though their changeability can sometimes make them seem scattered.

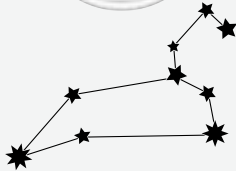
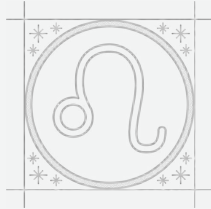
CANCER



The Nurturer (The Crab)

Imagine a quiet seaside cottage, a place of warmth and comfort—that's the energy of Cancer. Represented by the Crab, they carry their home with them, embodying the archetype of the **caretaker**. Cancer symbolizes **emotion, intuition, and the sacred bond of family**. **Protective and empathetic**, they're deeply connected to their inner world and those they love. Their tough outer shell hides a tender heart, always ready to provide **solace and security**. Cancer teaches us the importance of emotional depth, self-care, and creating a safe harbor in a chaotic world.

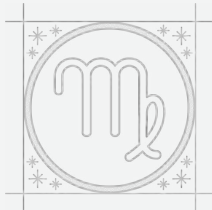
LEO



The Performer (The Lion)

Step into the spotlight, and you'll find Leo basking in its glow. Represented by the Lion, Leo is the royalty of the zodiac, radiating **confidence, charisma, and creative flair**. They symbolize **self-expression, leadership, and the celebration of individuality**. **Generous and warm-hearted**, Leos thrive on recognition and love sharing their gifts with the world. They teach us to embrace our inner light, take pride in our talents, and lead with courage. Like the sun they're ruled by, they're life-givers—but their pride can sometimes come across as arrogance if unchecked.

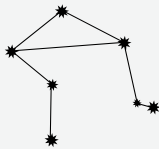
VIRGO



The Healer (The Maiden)

Picture a serene figure in a garden, meticulously planting seeds. Virgo, symbolized by the Maiden, embodies **service, order, and precision**. They are the zodiac's perfectionists, striving for excellence and bringing a touch of grace to everything they do. **Analytical and detail-oriented**, Virgos are **problem solvers** who seek to improve the world around them. They remind us of the beauty of small acts of service and the power of practical wisdom. While their high standards can sometimes make them overly critical, their intentions are always rooted in a desire to help and heal.

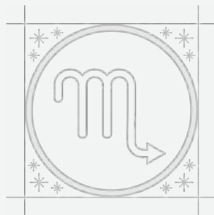
LIBRA



The Diplomat (The Scales)

Imagine a judge weighing options with fairness and grace—that's Libra, represented by the Scales. As the sign of **balance, harmony, and justice**, Libra seeks to **create beauty and peace** wherever they go. They're the ultimate **diplomats**, skilled in relationships and eager to foster connection. Ruled by Venus, they love art, beauty, and romance, but their quest for fairness can sometimes make them indecisive. Libra teaches us to value relationships, find compromise, and strive for inner and outer harmony.

SCORPIO



The Alchemist (The Scorpion)

Descend into the depths of mystery, and you'll meet Scorpio, the transformer of the zodiac. Represented by the Scorpion, Scorpio symbolizes **intensity, power, and rebirth**. They thrive on emotional depth and aren't afraid to confront life's darker truths. **Magnetic and intuitive**, Scorpios are passionate and loyal, but their intensity can make them seem secretive or controlling. They remind us of the importance of embracing transformation, letting go of what no longer serves us, and rising like a phoenix from the ashes.

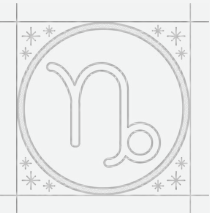
SAGITTARIUS



The Explorer (The Archer)

Picture an archer aiming for the horizon, eager to explore new lands—that's Sagittarius. Represented by the Archer, this sign symbolizes **adventure, wisdom, and the quest for truth**. Sagittarius is the zodiac's philosopher, always seeking knowledge and new experiences. They are **optimistic, independent, and love freedom**, inspiring others with their zest for life. They teach us to expand our horizons and embrace the unknown, though their blunt honesty can sometimes be mistaken for tactlessness.

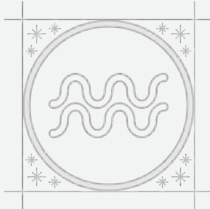
CAPRICORN



The Strategist (The Goat)

Imagine a mountain goat scaling a steep cliff, determined to reach the summit—that's Capricorn. Represented by the Goat, they symbolize **ambition, discipline, and perseverance**. Capricorns are natural leaders who excel in creating structure and achieving long-term goals. They value **hard work, responsibility, and tradition**, often acting as the zodiac's wise elders. While their focus on success can sometimes make them seem distant or overly serious, they remind us of the rewards of patience and persistence.

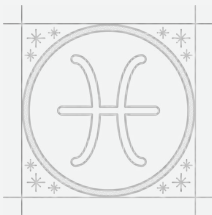
AQUARIUS



The Visionary (The Water Bearer)

Picture a figure pouring water from a jar, symbolizing knowledge and innovation—that's Aquarius, the humanitarian of the zodiac. Represented by the Water Bearer, Aquarius symbolizes **progress, individuality, and community**. They are **thinkers and dreamers** who thrive on originality and social change. With their futuristic mindset, they inspire others to challenge norms and envision a better world. While their detachment can sometimes make them seem aloof, they teach us to value both individuality and collective progress.

PISCES



The Dreamer (The Fish)

Dive into the depths of the ocean, and you'll find Pisces swimming in a world of imagination and spirituality. Represented by the Fish, Pisces symbolizes **intuition, empathy, and the connection to the divine**. They are the zodiac's mystics, often lost in dreams but deeply attuned to the emotional undercurrents of life. Pisces teach us to embrace **compassion, creativity, and the beauty of the unseen**. While their sensitivity can sometimes make them escapist, their wisdom reminds us of the interconnectedness of all things.

KEY HOUSES

The Four Pillars of Your Chart

In astrology, four key points shape the foundation of your natal chart: the Ascendant (AC), Descendant (DC), Imum Coeli (IC), and Midheaven (MC). These points form the chart's structural backbone, defining major life themes and how you engage with the world.

Ascendant (AC) – The Self & First Impressions

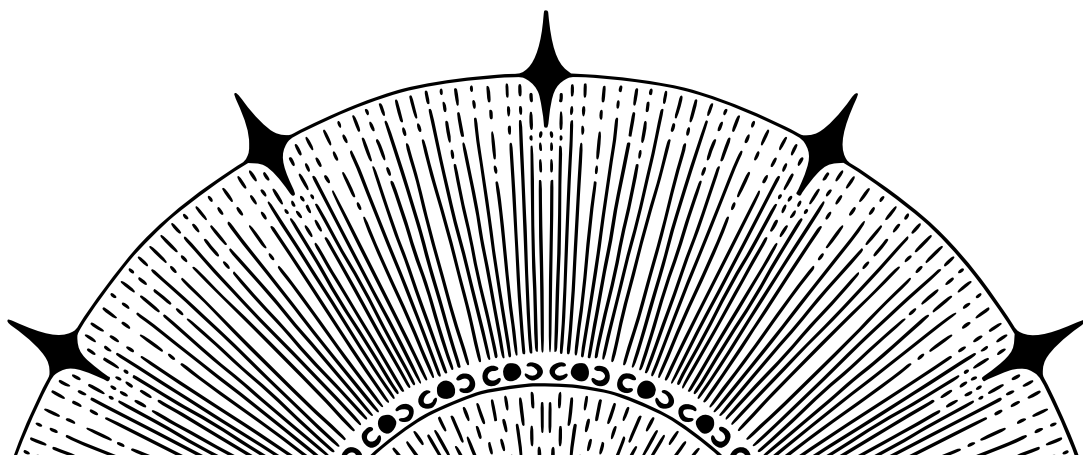
Your Ascendant, or Rising Sign, marks the cusp of the 1st house and represents how you present yourself to the world. Think of it as the “mask” you wear—your instinctive response to new situations and how others perceive you at first glance. It reflects your physical appearance, demeanor, and approach to life.

- Why it matters: The Ascendant sets the framework for your entire chart, influencing how all the houses align with the zodiac signs.

Imum Coeli (IC) – Home & Inner World

The IC, or “bottom of the sky”, marks the cusp of the 4th house, representing your roots, home life, and private self. It reflects your early childhood, family influences, and what makes you feel safe and nurtured. The IC is where you retreat when you need grounding.

- Why it matters: It's the foundation of your inner world—your emotional core and personal sanctuary.



KEY HOUSES

Descendant (DC) – Partnerships & Relationships

Directly opposite your Ascendant, the Descendant marks the cusp of the 7th house, governing relationships, partnerships, and how you connect with others. While the Ascendant is about self-identity, the Descendant reveals the qualities you seek (or attract) in close relationships, whether in romance, friendship, or business.

- Why it matters: The qualities of your Descendant often describe the kind of people who challenge, complete, or balance you.

Midheaven (MC) – Career & Public Image

Opposite the IC, the Midheaven (MC) sits at the cusp of the 10th house, governing career, reputation, and aspirations. It represents what you're known for in the public sphere—your achievements, ambitions, and life's direction. While the IC is your private self, the MC is your public self, shaping how you contribute to the world.

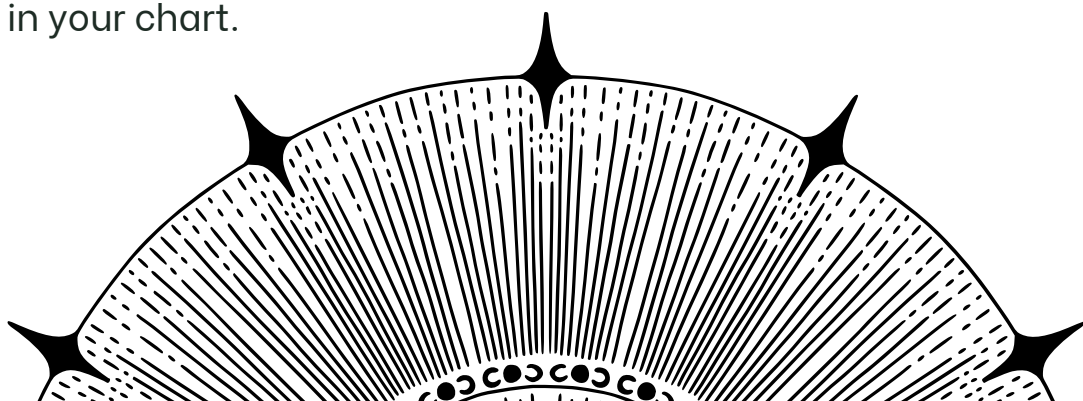
- Why it matters: The MC reflects your path to success, career tendencies, and long-term goals.

Why These Four Houses Matter

These four points divide the chart into quadrants, creating a structural map of your life's key areas:

- The Ascendant begins your personal journey.
- The Descendant brings in significant relationships.
- The IC anchors you in your private life.
- The MC guides your public and professional path.

Together, these key houses shape your identity, connections, foundation, and aspirations, acting as the framework for everything else in your chart.



REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect on your key houses and how the ruling sign for each of these houses has influenced this area of your life so far.

1st House (Ascendant/ AC or ASC)

How do I present myself to the world? Does my 1st house sign resonate with how I feel about my self-image?

4th House (IC)

How do I experience home and family life? How does my 4th house sign reflect my upbringing or my inner emotional world?

REFLECTION

7th House (Descendant)

How do I approach partnerships and relationships? How does the sign in this house influence my view of love and collaboration?

10th House (MC)

How do I approach my career and public life? What role does the sign in this house play in my professional identity?

THE PLANETS

The Players on the Stage

The planets represent different energies or archetypes, like actors in a play. They move around the chart and interact with one another, bringing different energies into focus.

The planets we use in astrology are the traditional planets known to ancient civilizations, plus a few later discoveries:

- The Classical Seven: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. These were the only visible “wandering stars” (the Greek word for planets) before the invention of the telescope.
- Modern Additions: Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto were discovered in later centuries and added to the astrological system because their influence was felt collectively, often signaling major societal shifts.

Why Do Planets Have Meanings?

The meanings of the planets in astrology are rooted in mythology, symbolism, and observable influence. Ancient astrologers associated each planet with gods and archetypes that reflected their perceived effects.

For example, Venus, named after the Roman goddess of love, represents beauty, relationships, and attraction. Mars, linked to the god of war, symbolizes action, drive, and passion.

Over time, these associations were refined through observation, as astrologers noticed patterns in how planetary placements correlated with human experiences. Each planet represents a distinct energy that influences different aspects of life.

MY NATAL CHART

1. Activity: Discovering How Planets Influence Your Chart

a. Each planet in your natal chart represents a different part of your inner world—how you think, feel, express, connect, and take action. Their placement helps you understand the unique energy you carry and how it shows up in your life.

2. Fill in Your Planet Placements

a. It's time to map out where the planets were at the moment of your birth. As you read about each planet in the next section, take a moment to draw its symbol in the correct place on your natal chart, "My Natal Chart" pg. 14.

- Use the "Example: The Planets" chart on pg.36 as a reference.
- Next to each planet symbol, you can note the sign and house it falls in to help you begin seeing how planetary energy interacts with the signs and life areas.

3. Reflection Questions

a. Use the reflection questions on pg.43 to help you deepen your understanding of how that energy influences your life and personality.

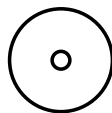
WHAT'S MY SIGN?

Typically, when people ask, “What’s your sign?” they’re referring to your Sun Sign, or the sign of the zodiac house that your Sun resides under. The Sun Sign is determined by your date of birth and is often considered the core of your personality—your essence, ego, and central motivations.

For example:

- If you were born on August 10, your Sun Sign is Leo because the Sun was in Leo on that date.

Find your sun sign by locating which sign your sun is under on your natal chart, the sun symbol looks like this:



Take a moment to find your sun sign on your natal chart and to draw it in its correct placement on your “My Natal Chart,” on page 14.

Why is the Rising Sign Important?

The Rising Sign or Ascendant (AC) complements the Sun Sign by shaping how others perceive you and how you come across in new situations. It can sometimes feel more immediately apparent to others than your Sun Sign, especially when they first meet you.

For example:

- A person with a Sun in Virgo (thoughtful, analytical, grounded) and a Rising Sign in Sagittarius (adventurous, outgoing, optimistic) might come across as lively and energetic at first, even though their inner self is more detail-oriented and reserved.

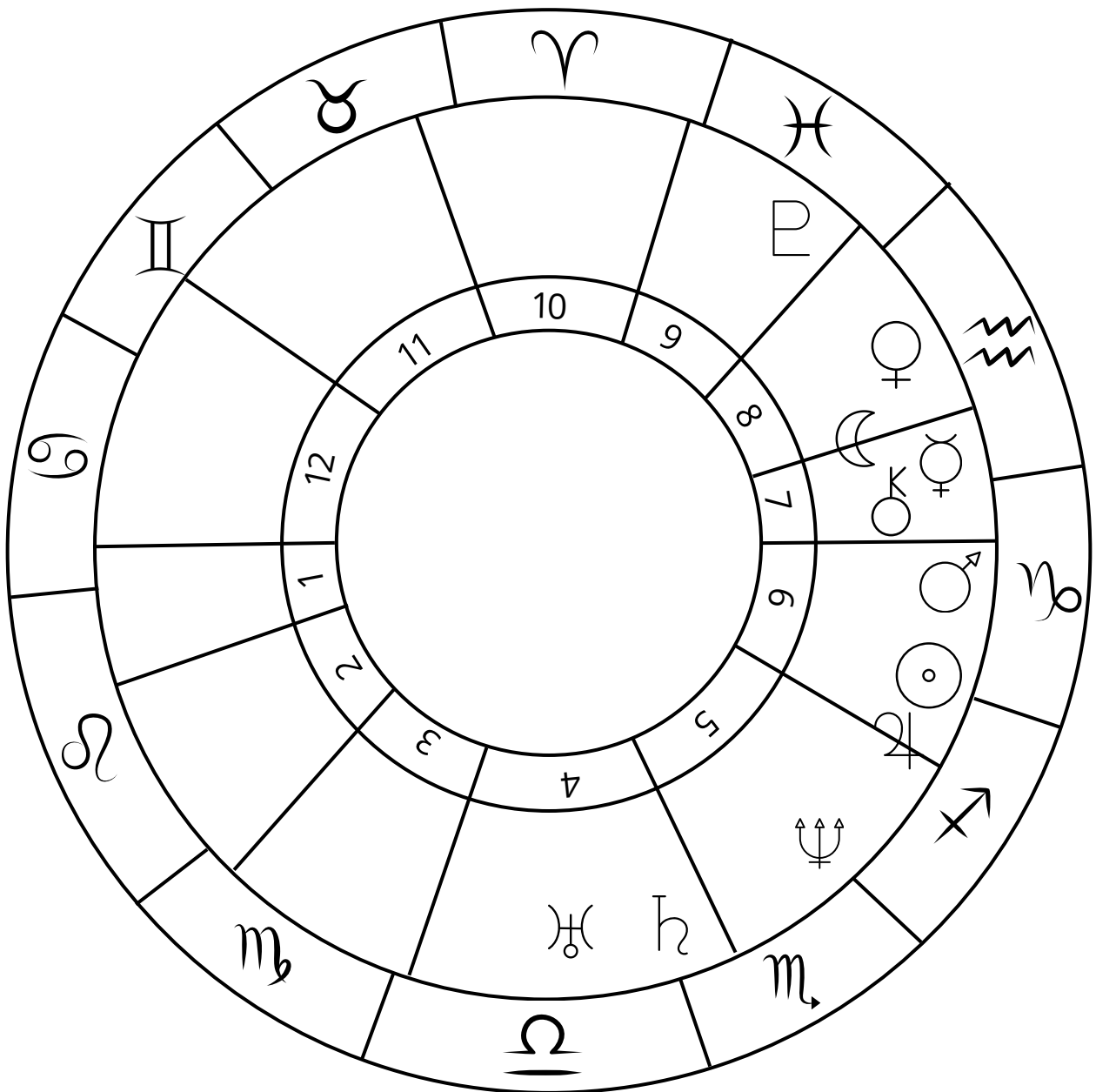
Key Difference Between Sun and Rising Sign

- **Sun Sign:** This represents your core identity, life purpose, and the foundation of your character.
- **Rising Sign:** Represents your outward appearance, first impressions, and how you navigate the external world.

EXAMPLE THE PLANETS

Name _____ Birth date _____

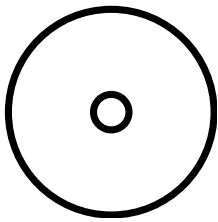
Birth Time _____ Location _____



THE PLANETS

SUN

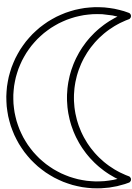
**Self, Core Personality, Identity,
Vitality, Ego, Purpose**



- Symbolism: The Sun represents the essence of life, like the “lead actor“ in a play, shining light on who you truly are. In mythology, the Sun is associated with Apollo (Greek) or Helios, symbolizing clarity, truth, and creativity.
- Astrological Role: It governs your life force and personal power, showing where you shine brightest and your core identity.

MOON

**Emotions, Intuition, Inner Self,
Instincts, Nurturing**

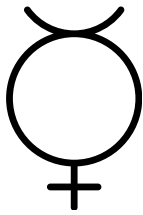


- Symbolism: The Moon reflects your inner world and subconscious needs, like the “director“ guiding the emotional tone. In mythology, the Moon is linked to Artemis (Greek) or Selene, representing intuition, the cycles of life, and feminine energy.
- Astrological Role: It reveals how you process emotions and what brings you comfort and security.

THE PLANETS

MERCURY

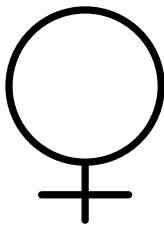
**Communication, Thought,
Logic, Travel**



- Symbolism: Mercury is the “messenger,” like the “scriptwriter“ of the play, orchestrating the exchange of ideas. Mythologically, Mercury is associated with Hermes (Greek) or Mercurius (Roman), the swift-footed god of communication, commerce, and trickery.
- Astrological Role: It governs mental processes, adaptability, and how you share and receive information.

VENUS

Love, Beauty, Harmony, Values

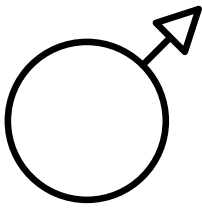


- Symbolism: Venus represents attraction and balance, like the “romantic lead“ of the play, focusing on relationships and pleasure. Mythologically, Venus is Aphrodite (Greek) or Venus (Roman), the goddess of love, beauty, and desire.
- Astrological Role: It shows what you value, your aesthetic preferences, and how you approach relationships and seek pleasure.

THE PLANETS

MARS

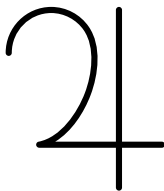
**Action, Drive, Ambition,
Desire, Energy**



- Symbolism: Mars is the “warrior,” representing raw energy and the force behind your ambitions. In mythology, Mars is Ares (Greek) or Mars (Roman), the god of war and conflict, symbolizing courage, passion, and aggression.
- Astrological Role: It governs motivation, assertiveness, and how you pursue goals or face challenges.

JUPITER

**Growth, Expansion, Luck,
Abundance, Wisdom**

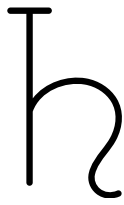


- Themes: Growth, expansion, abundance, and wisdom.
- Symbolism: Jupiter is the “mentor,” embodying optimism and the pursuit of higher understanding. Mythologically, Jupiter is Zeus (Greek) or Jupiter (Roman), the king of the gods, symbolizing justice, generosity, and divine guidance.
- Astrological Role: It reveals where you seek meaning, find luck, and expand your knowledge or spiritual awareness.

THE PLANETS

SATURN

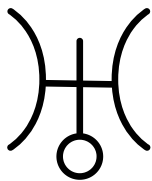
**Discipline, Responsibility,
Structure, Boundaries**



- Symbolism: Saturn is the “taskmaster,” teaching hard lessons and promoting long-term stability. Mythologically, Saturn is Cronus (Greek) or Saturn (Roman), the god of time, agriculture, and inevitability, often depicted as a stern father figure or reaper.
- Astrological Role: It shows where you face challenges, learn discipline, and build lasting foundations.

URANUS

Innovation, Rebellion, Change



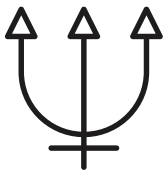
- Discovery: 1781 during the Age of Enlightenment and the American and French Revolutions—a time of radical change, innovation, and liberation.
- Symbolism: Revolution, innovation, freedom, rebellion, and sudden change.
- Astrological Role: Uranus is often called the “Great Awakener.” Its influence pushes for personal and societal evolution, even if it means chaos or upheaval.

THE PLANETS

NEPTUNE

Dreams, Intuition, Illusions

- Discovery: 1846, during the rise of Romanticism in art, music, and literature, as well as a growing fascination with spirituality, mysticism, and dreams.
- Neptune represents the dissolving of boundaries, leading to a sense of unity or confusion. It rules imagination, intuition, and higher consciousness but also delusion and addiction.
- Astrological Role: Neptune governs dreams, fantasy, and spiritual longing. It inspires creativity and transcendence but warns of deception and escapism.



PLUTO

Transformation, Power, Subconscious, Death, Rebirth

- Discovery: 1930, Its discovery coincided with significant global transformations, including the Great Depression and rising interest in psychology.
- Pluto represents the cycles of destruction and renewal. It forces confrontation with hidden truths and drives profound personal and collective evolution.
- Astrological Role: Pluto is the planet of deep transformation, often called the “Great Transformer.” It demands letting go of what no longer serves to make way for growth.

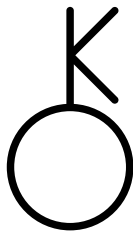


*Pluto has two symbols one is astronomical, fashioned after Percival Lowell, the man who predicted its existence. The other is astrological, representing Pluto (Hades) as the brother of Neptune (Poseidon)

THE PLANETS

CHIRON

Healing, and Accepting deep wounds



- Discovery: 1977, rising interest in holistic health, psychology, and healing practices like yoga and meditation. Named after the centaur Chiron in Greek mythology, he is known as the wounded healer who turned his suffering into wisdom and healing for others.
- Chiron represents where we carry deep emotional or spiritual wounds and where we have the potential to heal ourselves and others.
- Astrological Role: Chiron is the bridge between the personal and collective experience of pain and growth. It shows where we are vulnerable but also capable of transformation.

REFLECTION

Now that you've read about what each planet represents and added its symbol to the appropriate house in your chart, it's time to reflect on how these placements shape your life.

Take a moment to observe the zodiac sign associated with each planet in your natal chart. You can find this by noting which sign is present in the house where the planet symbol appears. For example, if your Moon is in the 3rd house, and the 3rd house is ruled by Gemini, then your Moon is in Gemini. If another sign is also in that house, it will also have an influence on that planet, though possibly not as strong.

The zodiac sign modifies how the energy of the planet is expressed, while the house shows the area of life most influenced by the planet. Together, they create a unique picture of how this planetary energy operates in your life.

As you explore these placements, reflect on the following questions to help you connect with their meaning and influence:

1. The Sun (Core Identity, Ego)

- What qualities of the zodiac sign your Sun is in do you resonate with the most?
- How does the house your Sun occupies influence your primary focus or life purpose?
- How does your Sun sign help you express yourself authentically?

REFLECTION

2. The Moon (Emotions, Inner Self)

- How do the traits of your Moon sign shape your emotional world and instincts?
- In what ways do you seek comfort, nurture yourself, or feel secure?
- How does the house your Moon is in show where you feel most emotionally connected or vulnerable?

3. Mercury (Communication, Thought Process)

- How does your Mercury sign influence the way you think, learn, or communicate?
- What role does the house Mercury is in play in how and where you express your ideas?
- How do you approach conversations, learning, or decision-making based on this placement?

REFLECTION

4. Venus (Love, Values, Harmony)

- What does your Venus sign reveal about your desires in relationships and how you express love?
- In what ways does your Venus placement influence your sense of beauty, art, or pleasure?
- How does the house Venus occupies highlight the areas of life where you seek balance or fulfillment?

5. Mars (Energy, Drive, Action)

- How does your Mars sign influence the way you assert yourself and pursue your goals?
- What motivates you, and how do you express passion or determination?
- How does the house Mars is in highlight the areas of life where you take initiative or face challenges?

REFLECTION

6. Jupiter (Expansion, Growth, Abundance)

- What does your Jupiter sign reveal about how you seek growth, wisdom, and opportunities?
- In what ways do you feel lucky or naturally expansive?
- How does the house Jupiter occupies show where you might experience abundance or explore new horizons?

7. Saturn (Discipline, Responsibility, Lessons)

- How does your Saturn sign influence your approach to discipline, structure, and long-term goals?
- What areas of life require effort and patience based on the house Saturn is in?
- How do you navigate challenges or restrictions that this placement may bring?

REFLECTION

8. Uranus (Innovation, Change, Independence)

- What does your Uranus sign say about your desire for freedom, originality, or rebellion?
- How do you embrace change or disrupt outdated patterns in your life?
- In what ways does the house Uranus occupies reveal areas of life where you seek innovation or break from tradition?

9. Neptune (Dreams, Intuition, Spirituality)

- How does your Neptune sign reflect your imagination, intuition, or spiritual inclinations?
- What role does creativity or idealism play in your life, especially in the house Neptune is in?
- How do you navigate the balance between dreams and reality with this placement?

REFLECTION

10. Pluto (Transformation, Power, Deep Change)

- What does your Pluto sign reveal about your approach to transformation, healing, or uncovering truth?
- How does the house Pluto is in highlight areas of life where you experience profound change or personal empowerment?
- In what ways do you embrace or resist the cycles of endings and new beginnings this placement may signify?






ASPECTS

How The Planets Talk To Each Other

Aspects describe how planets interact based on the angles between them. They show whether the energies are working in harmony or creating tension.

While the intricate details of aspects can be rather confusing, this is just an intro course to astrology so we won't get too heady here about aspects and how they are calculated, if you want more details a great article is found here.

<https://soulfriendastrology.com/2019/02/26/how-to-interpret-aspects-in-astrology/>

| Aspect | Degrees | Description |
|---|---------|--|
| Conjunction  | 0° | Planets are close together, blending energies. |
| Sextile  | 60° | A friendly, cooperative interaction. |
| Square  | 90° | Tension or conflict, like a challenge to overcome. |
| Trine  | 120° | Easy flow, natural harmony. |
| Opposition  | 180° | A push-pull dynamic, needing balance. |

Example:

Imagine you're organizing a family dinner. A conjunction is when two family members are getting along well, maybe teaming up to cook. A square is when siblings are arguing over who gets the last piece of pie. An opposition might be when one wants pizza, and the other wants sushi—you'll need to find a compromise!

ASPECTS

How Are Aspects Found?

On a natal chart, aspects are calculated by measuring the distance in degrees between planets. Modern astrology apps and software often generate aspect grids or maps for you. Beginner astrologers can also use aspect “orbs” (a small range of degrees) to determine if planets form a valid aspect. For instance, a square might still be counted if the planets are 88° or 92° apart.

Why Are Aspects Important?

Aspects show how planetary energies combine to create your unique personality and life experiences. For example:

- A trine between Mercury and Uranus may indicate someone with quick, innovative thinking.
- A square between the Moon and Saturn might point to emotional challenges or a reserved nature.

By understanding aspects, you gain deeper insight into the dynamics of your chart, helping you harness strengths and navigate challenges.

A Simple Metaphor

If the planets are the actors in the play, aspects represent the relationships between them:

- **Conjunction:** Two actors standing side by side, performing the same role.
- **Square:** Actors arguing on stage, creating tension.
- **Trine:** A duet where the actors complement each other beautifully.
- **Opposition:** Actors pulling a rope in opposite directions—needing balance.
- **Sextile:** Two actors working together smoothly to achieve a shared goal.

These planetary “dialogues” shape the story of your life and help you understand yourself and your potential more fully.

ASPECTS

Activity: Exploring Your Venus Aspects

Step 1: Find Venus in Your Chart

- Open your astrology app or website (e.g., Astro.com, Astro-Seek, or TimePassages).
- Locate Venus on your natal chart. It's often listed under "Planets."
- Tip: Venus represents love, beauty, and how you relate to others, so this planet is key for understanding your romantic and social life.

Step 2: Identify Venus' Aspects

- Look for the lines or numbers connecting Venus to other planets in your chart.
- These are the aspects. Check if Venus has a conjunction, square, trine, opposition, or sextile with any planets.

Step 3: Understand What These Aspects Mean

- Conjunction: Venus is close to another planet, mixing their energies. (Example: Venus Conjunct Mars means passion in love.)
- Square: A challenging aspect, creating tension. (Example: Venus Square Pluto suggests intense emotional experiences.)
- Trine: A harmonious, easy connection. (Example: Venus Trine Jupiter can make relationships feel smooth and optimistic.)
- Opposition: A push-pull energy, creating balance issues. (Example: Venus Opposition Saturn may point to challenges in feeling loved.)
- Sextile: A helpful, supportive aspect. (Example: Venus Sextile Neptune may bring dreaminess or artistic expression into relationships.)

ASPECTS

Step 4: Journal Your Observations

- Where is Venus in your chart? Is it in a relationship house like the 7th or 5th, or is it somewhere else? How might that show up in your life?

- How do the aspects to Venus make you feel? For instance, does a Venus Square Mars make you feel restless in relationships, or does Venus Trine Neptune make you more idealistic about love?

Step 5: Apply It to Your Life

- Think about how your Venus aspects match your relationship patterns or love life. For example, if you have Venus in Capricorn Square Mars in Aries, you may feel torn between a desire for security and a need for independence in relationships.

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Your Cosmic Play

Let's Review:

- The Planet is what energy is at play (the actor).
- The Sign is how that energy expresses itself (the costume).
- The House is where in your life that energy shows up (the stage).
- Aspects describe the relationships between these energies, like dialogue between actors.

Example:

Let's say you have Venus in Leo in your 7th House:

- Venus (what): Love and relationships.
- Leo (how): Expressed with flair, confidence, and a desire for attention.
- 7th House (where): In your partnerships and one-on-one connections.
- Aspect: If Venus is trine to Jupiter, this energy flows easily, suggesting luck and abundance in relationships.

This placement might indicate someone who is very expressive and affectionate in their relationships, seeking partners who make them feel admired and appreciated. With a trine to Jupiter, there's a sense of ease and good fortune in love.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

So far, we've focused on the houses, signs, and planets in relation to your unique natal chart. These placements create a snapshot of the sky at the exact moment you were born, offering insights into your personality, strengths, challenges, and life experiences.

But astrology doesn't stop at the personal level—it's also a dynamic, ongoing system that connects us all.

You might have heard someone say, "Mars is in Cancer" or "Venus is in retrograde" and wondered, What does that mean? How does it affect me?

Here's the idea, while your natal chart remains constant, the planets keep moving through the zodiac signs, creating new alignments and energies that influence everyone on Earth. These movements are called transits, and they represent how the current positions of the planets interact with your natal chart.

How It Works

When someone says "Mars is in Cancer," they're referring to the current placement of Mars in the zodiac. Each planet moves through the 12 signs at its own pace, and as it does, it interacts with the energy of the sign it's passing through and the planets and houses in your natal chart.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Pluto in Aquarius: An Example of a Major Transit

Pluto, the planet of transformation and deep change, entered Aquarius on March 23, 2023, and will stay there (with a few retrogrades) until 2043. This 20-year cycle is significant for everyone, bringing themes of innovation, collective progress, and shifting societal power structures.

Here's what this means:

- **Collective Transformation:** Aquarius, ruled by Uranus, governs technology, innovation, and humanitarian ideals. As Pluto transits this sign, we may see profound shifts in how societies operate—technological breakthroughs, reforms for equality, and disruptions to outdated systems.
- **Personal Impacts:** While the collective themes are massive, this transit interacts differently with everyone based on their natal chart. For example, if you have personal planets or key points (like your Sun, Moon, or Ascendant) in Aquarius, you'll likely feel Pluto's energy more intensely. It might push you toward personal growth, upheaval, or deep self-awareness.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Reflection Activity: How Does Pluto in Aquarius Affect You?

1. Identify Your Aquarius Placements:

- Look at your natal chart and note any planets or key points (like the Ascendant or Midheaven) in Aquarius.
- If you don't have placements in Aquarius, observe which house Aquarius rules in your chart. Pluto's transit through that house will highlight the themes associated with it.

2. Reflect on the Themes:

- What area of life is ruled by the Aquarius-occupied house (e.g., friendships, career, finances). How might Pluto's transformative energy bring shifts here over time?

- If you have planets in Aquarius, think about the nature of that planet (e.g., the Moon represents emotions; Mercury governs communication). How might Pluto push you to evolve in this area?

3. Pay Attention to Collective Patterns:

- Observe global events that align with Pluto in Aquarius themes – technological advances, social justice movements, or shifts in leadership structures.
- Reflect on how these collective patterns influence or resonate with your personal experiences.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Why This Matters

Understanding transits like Pluto in Aquarius connects your personal growth to a broader context. For example:

- If Pluto is transiting your 5th house of creativity and joy, you might feel inspired to pursue a groundbreaking artistic project that also resonates with societal themes of innovation and change.
- Or, if you have your Sun in Aquarius, Pluto's transit may feel like an intense spotlight on your sense of self, urging you to redefine your role in the world.

Astrology reminds us that we're all part of a cosmic dance—our personal stories are intertwined with larger cycles of transformation. Pluto in Aquarius is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore how these shifts shape both our individual lives and the collective future.

FLASH CARDS

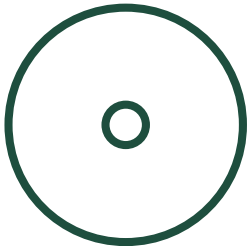
To get the most out of this course, we've included printable flashcards for quick reference and easy review.

To print double-sided flashcards:

1. Open your PDF file and go to pages 59–64.
2. In your printer settings, choose:
 - Print double-sided or duplex printing
 - Flip on long edge (this keeps the front and back aligned correctly)
3. If your printer doesn't support double-sided printing:
 - Print odd pages first (the fronts), then reload the paper and print even pages (the backs), making sure to flip along the long edge manually.
4. Cut along the lines to separate each card.
5. Optional: For extra durability, print on cardstock or laminate your flashcards.

Use them for practice, quick review, or to quiz yourself as you go!

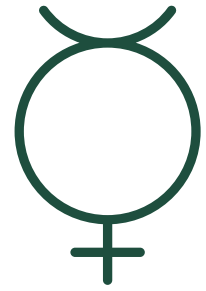
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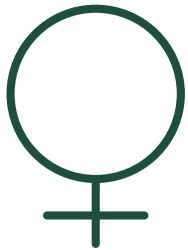
MOON



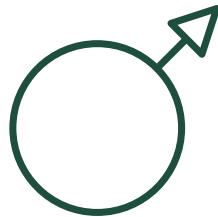
MERCURY



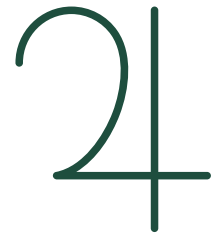
VENUS



MARS



JUPITER



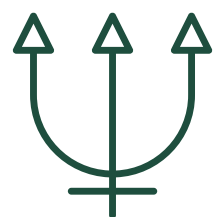
SATURN



URANUS



NEPTUNE



MERCURY

Communication
Thought
Logic

MOON

Emotions
Intuition
Inner Self

SUN

Self
Core personality
Ego

JUPITER

Growth
Expansion
Luck

MARS

Action
Drive
Ambition

VENUS

Love
Beauty
Harmony

NEPTUNE

Dreams
Intuitions
Illusions

URANUS

Innovation
Rebellion
Change

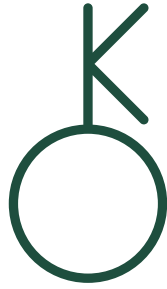
SATURN

Discipline
Responsibility
Structure

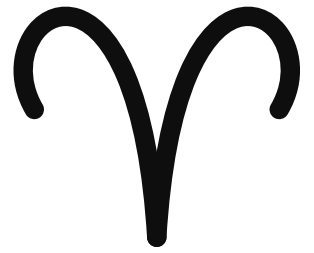
PLUTO



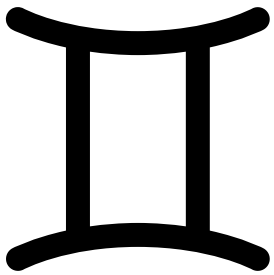
CHIRON



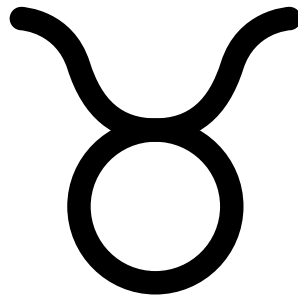
ARIES



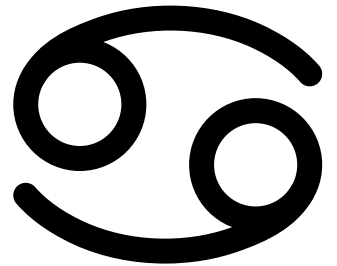
GEMINI



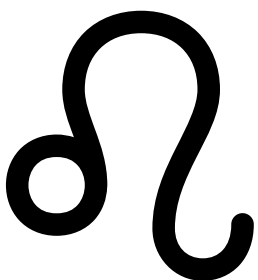
TAURUS



CANCER



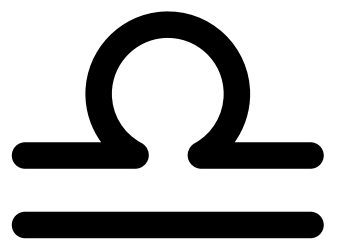
LEO



VIRGO



LIBRA



ARIES

The Ram
Boldness and
Leadership

CHIRON

Healing
Accepting deep
wounds

PLUTO

Transformation
Power
Rebirth

CANCER

The Crab
Protection and
Emotional
Sensitivity

TAURUS

The Bull
Strength,
Stability,
Sensuality

GEMINI

The Twins
Duality and
Communication

LIBRA

The Scales
Balance,
Fairness,
Harmony

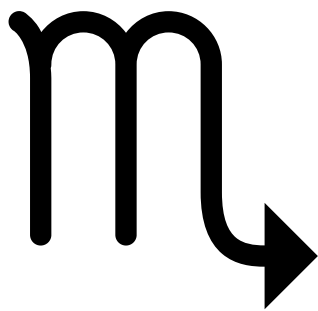
VIRGO

The Maiden
Purity and
Service

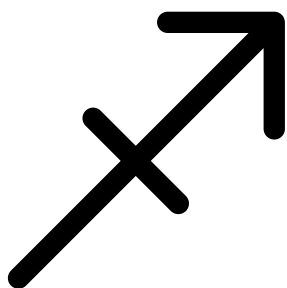
LEO

The Lion
Courage,
Leadership,
Pride

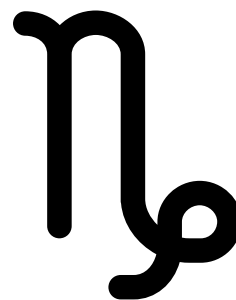
SCORPIO



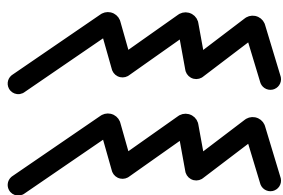
SAGITTARIUS



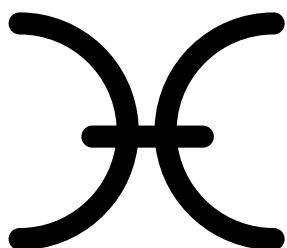
CAPRICORN



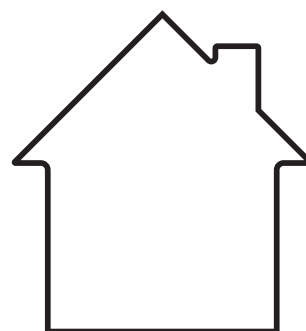
AQUARIUS



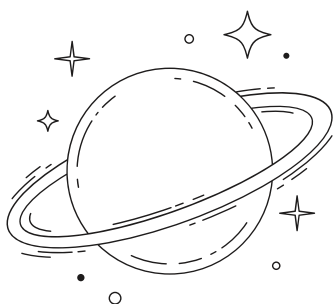
PISCES



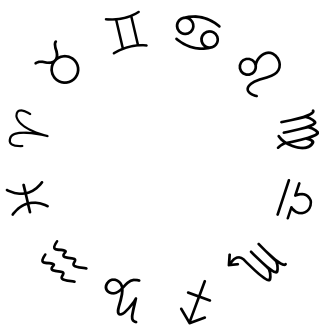
HOUSES



PLANETS



SIGNS



CAPRICORN

The Goat-Fish
Ambition and
Resilience

SAGITTARIUS

The Archer
Adventure and
Wisdom

SCORPIO

The Scorpion
Intensity and
Transformation

HOUSES

The Stage
12 sections of the
natal chart, each
representing
different areas of
life.

PISCES

The Fish
Intuition and
Interconnectedness

AQUARIUS

The Water Bearer
Knowledge and
Community
Service

SIGNS

The Costumes
12 zodiac signs act
like costumes the
planets wear,
affecting how they
express themselves.
Each sign has its own
personality traits and
energies.

PLANETS

The Actors
The planets
represent different
energies or
archetypes. They
move around the
chart and interact
with one another.

UNEVEN HOUSE SIZES

In many natal charts, the houses are not always divided into perfect 30-degree sections. This happens because there are different house systems used in astrology, and they determine how the houses are calculated. Here's why the houses might not always appear equally divided in a natal chart:

1. **The Earth's Tilt and Your Birth Location Matter**

- a. The 12 houses are based on the Earth's 24-hour rotation, meaning the way the sky looks at the moment and place of your birth influences house placement.
- b. If you were born closer to the equator, your houses are likely to be more evenly distributed.
- c. If you were born closer to the poles, houses can become very unequal, with some being much larger or smaller.

2. **Different House Systems Calculate Houses Differently**

- a. There are many different ways to divide the chart, and astrologers use different systems depending on what they feel works best. Some common ones include:
- b. Placidus (Most Common) – Unequal houses; takes Earth's curvature into account.
- c. Whole Sign – Every house is exactly 30 degrees; the entire sign rules a house.
- d. Equal House – Houses are all the same size, but not necessarily aligned with whole zodiac signs.
- e. Koch, Porphyry, Campanus, etc. – Other systems that adjust house size based on latitude and time of birth.

3. **Some Houses Can Span Multiple Signs (or Only Part of One)**

- a. If a house is large, it can cover more than one zodiac sign. If a house is small, it may only contain a portion of a single sign. This impacts how the energy of the sign expresses itself in your life.

Why Does This Matter?

Unequal houses mean some life areas (houses) are more emphasized than others in your chart.

If one house is really big, it may mean that life area plays a huge role in your life. If a house is really small, its themes may be less dominant or more focused. So, when reading your chart, pay attention to which signs rule each house, even if the sizes vary! This will give you a more accurate sense of how your planetary placements play out in different areas of your life.