

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 2#

The 12 Signs of The Zodiac

- *“We need not feel ashamed of flirting with the zodiac. The zodiac is well worth flirting with..”*
 - D.H. Lawrence
- *Zodiac* is derived from the Latin *zōdiacus*, from the Greek ζῳδιακός, meaning “band of animals”
- The zodiac is a 360° circle divided into 12 signs each of 30° longitude
- The Zodiac is a band of constellations that falls within 9° on either side of the ecliptic.
- The ecliptic is the apparent path that the Sun and other planets trace out in the sky during the year as they appear to move in the sky in relation to the stars.

The Solstices and Equinoxes

- Equi-nox – equal night
- The equinoxes are the two days each year that the Sun passes over the equator, generally around March 20 and September 23
- *Sol-sistere* – sun stands still
- The Summer Solstice generally takes place around June 20 when the Sun is 23.44° north of the equator
- The Winter Solstice generally takes place on December 21 when the Sun is 23.44° south of the equator

The Tropical Zodiac

- The Tropical Zodiac marks the entrance of the Sun into the cardinal or moveable signs
- Aries – March 20
- Cancer – June 20
- Libra – September 23
- Capricorn – December 21
- These dates correspond with the solstitial and equinoctial points

The Precession of the Equinoxes

- Precession refers to a change in the axis of the rotating earth, which wobbles like a top. This causes the equinox to move backwards through the zodiac at a rate of 1° every 72 years, or through one sign of the zodiac every 2,150 years
- The cycle of 25,765 years for the equinox to pass backwards through all twelve signs gives rise to the astrological ages and is referred to as a Great Year or Platonic Year
- Hipparchus is credited with the discovery of the Precession of the Equinoxes
- The Sidereal Zodiac links the 12 signs of the zodiac to the positions of the 12 constellations; each sign is 30° in length.
- This does not account for the fact that Virgo takes up approximately 40° (September 16 - October 30) and Cancer 23° (July 21 - August 9) of zodiacal longitude
- During the period of Classical Astrology around 500 B.C. the Sidereal and Tropical Zodiacs were in alignment – this will happen again in approximately 21,000 years

The Zodiac Was Born From Observation

- The Ancients observed that person born during certain 30 day periods of the year held similar traits in common.
- They chose a symbol from their natural world and projected it against the starry backdrop of the night’s sky

Signs – Sounding Boards

- Just as the tone of “C” sounds differently on a Piccolo than on a Cello - The “tones” of the Planets express differently according to the Sign in which they are located
- The zodiac is viewed counter-clockwise as a circle or cross-section
- Divisions of the Zodiac

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Triplcities – Elements

- Fire
- Earth
- Air
- Water
- Earth and Water signs are considered feminine
- Fire and Air signs are considered masculine

Fire

- ♈ - Aries
- ♌ - Leo
- ♐ - Sagittarius
- Shared Characteristics: authoritative, eager, enthusiastic, energetic, fervent, lively, inspirational, passionate, vigorous, and vital.

Earth

- ♉ - Taurus
- ♍ - Virgo
- ♑ - Capricorn
- Shared Characteristics: down-to-earth, level-headed, matter-of-fact, practical, pragmatic, realistic, sensible, and utilitarian.

Air

- ♊ - Gemini
- ♎ - Libra
- ♒ - Aquarius
- Shared Characteristics: chatty, communicative, ideological, intellectual, mental, out-going, talkative, social, and communal.

Water

- ♋ - Cancer
- ♏ - Scorpio
- ♓ - Pisces
- Shared Characteristics: caring, compassionate, empathetic, emotional, intuitive, moody, receptive, and sensitive.

Quadruplicities – States of Being

- Moveable (Cardinal)
- Fixed
- Mutable

Moveable

- ♈ - Aries
- ♋ - Cancer
- ♎ - Libra
- ♑ - Capricorn
- Shared Characteristics: ground-breakers, initiators, make the first move, pioneers

Fixed

- ♉ - Taurus
- ♌ - Leo
- ♏ - Scorpio
- ♒ - Aquarius
- Shared Characteristics: inflexible, perfectionists, reliable, rigid, solid, unyielding

Mutable

- ♊ - Gemini
- ♍ - Virgo
- ♐ - Sagittarius
- ♓ - Pisces
- Shared Characteristics: adaptable, appeasing, assuaging, conciliatory, flexible, middle-men, mollifying

Aries – The Ram

- Symbol: ♈
- Sun-Sign Dates: March 20 - April 19
- Keyword: I Am
- Best Quality: Leadership
- Worst Quality: Officiousness
- Ruling Planet: Mars
- Color: Light Red
- Gemstone: Amethyst
- Part of Body: Head

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Taurus – The Bull

- Symbol: ♉
- Sun-Sign Dates: April 20 – May 20
- Keyword: I Have
- Best Quality: Stability
- Worst Quality: Obstinacy
- Ruling Planet: Venus
- Color: Dark Yellow
- Gemstone: Agate
- Part of Body: Neck, Throat

Name: Gemini – The Twins

- Symbol: ♊
- Sun-Sign Dates: May 21 – June 19
- Keyword: I Think
- Best Quality: Versatility
- Worst Quality: Changeable
- Ruling Planet: Mercury
- Color: Light Violet
- Gemstone: Beryl, Tiger-eye
- Part of Body: Arms, bronchia, upper lungs

Cancer – The Crab

- Symbol: ♋
- Keyword: I Feel
- Sun-Sign Dates: June 20 – July 22
- Best Quality: Tenacity
- Worst Quality: Touchy
- Ruling Planet: The Moon
- Color: Green
- Gemstone: Emerald
- Part of Body: Stomach, breasts

Name: Leo – The Lion

- Symbol: ♌
- Keyword: I Will
- Sun-Sign Dates: July 23 - August 22
- Best Quality: Kindness
- Worst Quality: Domination
- Ruling Planet: The Sun
- Color: Orange
- Gemstone: Ruby
- Part of Body: Back and spine

Virgo – The Maiden

- Symbol: ♍
- Keyword: I Analyze
- Dates: August 23 – September 22
- Best Quality: Analysis
- Worst Quality: Criticism
- Ruling Planet: Mercury
- Color: Dark Violet
- Gemstone: Jasper
- Part of Body: Intestines and bowels

Libra – The Scales

- Symbol: ♎
- Keyword: I Balance
- Sun-Sign Dates: September 23 – October 22
- Best Quality: Affability
- Worst Quality: Approbation
- Ruling Planet: Venus
- Color: Light Yellow
- Gemstone: Diamond, quartz
- Part of Body: Lower back and kidneys

Scorpio – the Scorpion

- Symbol: ♏
- Keyword: I Desire
- Sun-Sign Dates: October 23 – November 21
- Best Quality: Resourceful
- Worst Quality: Troublesome
- Ruling Planet: Pluto, Mars
- Color: Dark Red
- Gemstone: Opal, Topaz
- Part of Body: Genitals

Sagittarius – the Archer

- Symbol: ♐
- Keyword: I See
- Sun-Sign Dates: November 22 – December 21
- Best Quality: Loyalty
- Worst Quality: Sportative
- Ruling Planet: Jupiter
- Color: Light Purple
- Gemstone: Garnet, Turquoise
- Part of Body: Thighs, buttocks

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Capricorn – The Sea-Goat

- Symbol: ♄
- Keyword: I Use
- Sun-Sign Dates: December 22 – January 19
- Best Quality: Diplomacy
- Worst Quality: Deceit
- Ruling Planet: Saturn
- Color: Dark Blue
- Gemstone: Onyx, Sardonyx
- Part of Body: Knees

Aquarius – The Water-Bearer

- Symbol: ♒
- Keyword: I Know
- Sun-Sign Dates: January 18 – February 19
- Best Quality: Altruism
- Worst Quality: Argumentative
- Ruling Planet: Uranus/Saturn
- Color: Light Blue
- Gemstone: Sapphire
- Part of Body: Calves, shins, and ankles

Pisces – Twin Fish

- Symbol: ♓
- Keyword: I Believe
- Dates: February 19 – March 20
- Best Quality: Sympathy
- Worst Quality: Worry
- Ruling Planet: Neptune, Jupiter
- Color: Dark Purple
- Gemstone: Peridot
- Part of Body: Feet

Homework

Match the symbol to the corresponding name

♈	Aries
♏	Scorpio
♐	Pisces
♉	Taurus
♌	Leo
♍	Sagittarius
♊	Gemini
♎	Virgo
♄	Capricorn
♋	Cancer
♎	Libra
♒	Aquarius

Practice writing each astrological glyph 10 times

♈ _____

♏ _____

♐ _____

♉ _____

♌ _____

♍ _____

♊ _____

♎ _____

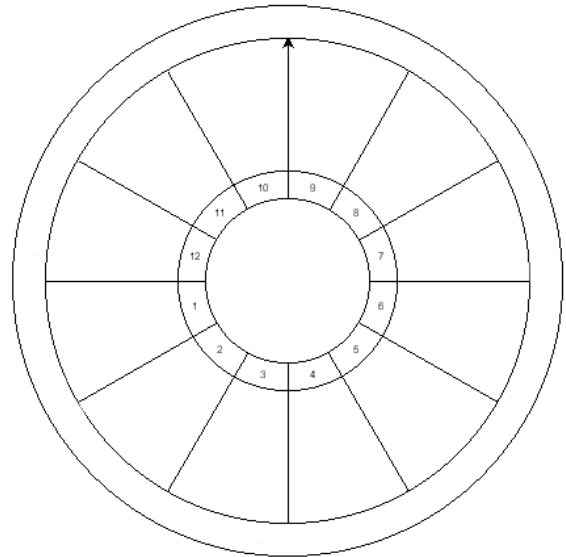
♄ _____

♋ _____

♎ _____

♒ _____

Using your computer generated chart copy the house cusps onto the blank chart form below



Reading

- *Beginner's Horoscope Reader* Chapter 1, *Significance of the Sun in Each Zodiacal Sign*
- *Astrology and It's Psychological Correspondences* – Dennis Sutton
- *Additional Reading*
- *Cs II, Astrological Signatures* Chapter 2, *The Zodiac*