

Orion the Hunter

Long ago, people looked to the night sky and saw patterns among the stars. One of the most famous patterns is **Orion the Hunter**, named after a legendary figure in Greek mythology. Orion is easy to spot because of his **bright belt**, which is formed by three stars in a neat row. Ancient sailors used Orion to guide their voyages across the seas when maps and compasses were not yet common.

In Greek myths, Orion was a mighty hunter who loved to chase wild animals. Some stories say he was placed in the sky by the god Zeus after his adventures on Earth ended. Nearby, the constellation **Canis Major** (the Great Dog) represents Orion's loyal hunting companion, and the brightest star of all, **Sirius**, shines there. Different cultures had their own stories: for example, in ancient Egypt, Orion was linked to Osiris, the god of the afterlife.

Today, Orion still serves as a cosmic signpost. Astronomers use his stars to help locate other constellations, like Taurus the Bull and Gemini the Twins. In the winter months, Orion dominates the night sky, reminding us how humans have always looked upward for stories, guidance, and discovery.



Comprehension Questions

1. Why was Orion especially helpful to ancient sailors?
2. What are the three stars in a row within Orion commonly called?
3. Which bright star belongs to the constellation Canis Major?
4. How did the ancient Egyptians connect Orion to their culture?
5. What role does Orion play for modern astronomers?
6. Which season is Orion most visible in the night sky?
7. According to Greek mythology, what was Orion known for?
8. Name two constellations that can be located with the help of Orion.