

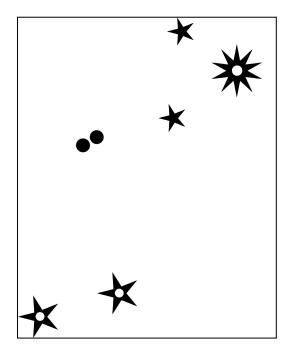
Lyra (Lyre)

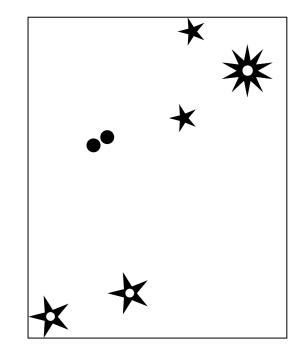
The lyre is a hand-held stringed instrument resembling a small harp. It is the instrument associated with the Greek gods Hermes and Apollo (*D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, pp. 150-154). Apollo gave a lyre to his son, Orpheus, who learned to play so well that he was able to tame wild animals.

Lyra was also known to the Romans as *vultur cadens* ("falling vulture"). It was one of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd-century astronomer Ptolemy.

Although a small constellation, Lyra contains the bright star Altair and several nebulae, including the famous Ring Nebula. The constellation is now known to contain several exoplanets.

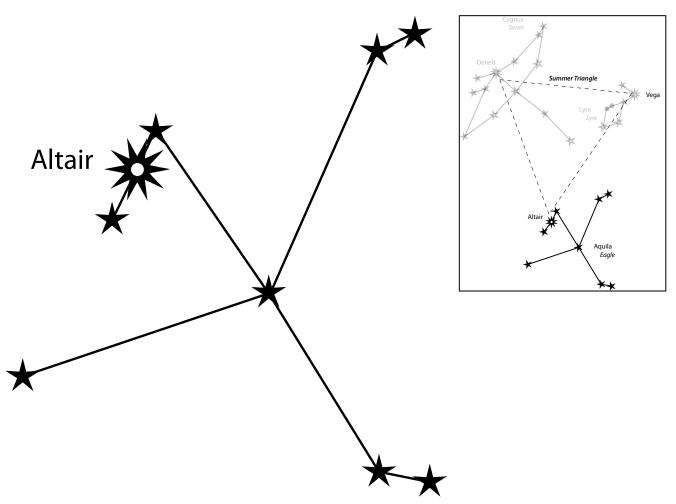
Exercise. Draw the constellation, label the brightest star, and give the Roman and English names for the constellation.





	15 Brightest Stars	Constellation
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Aquila



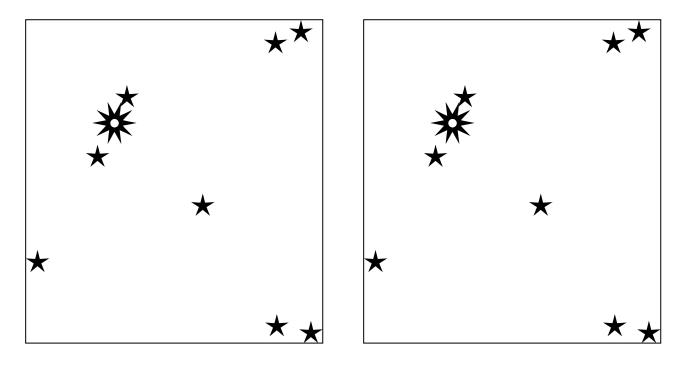
Aquila (Eagle)

Aquila was known to the ancient Greeks and Babylonians, and is one of the 48 constellations described by the 2^{nd} -century astronomer Ptolemy. It had been described at least as early as the 4^{th} century B.C.

Aquila means "eagle" in Latin. This constellation was also known to the Romans as *vultur volans* ("flying vulture"). In mythology, Aquila was owned by the Roman god Jupiter and performed many tasks for him.

In the figure, the eagle spreads its wings in flight. Its large beak contains the star Altair.

Exercise. Draw the constellation, label the brightest star, and give the Roman and English names for the constellation.



15 Brightest Stars	Constellation
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