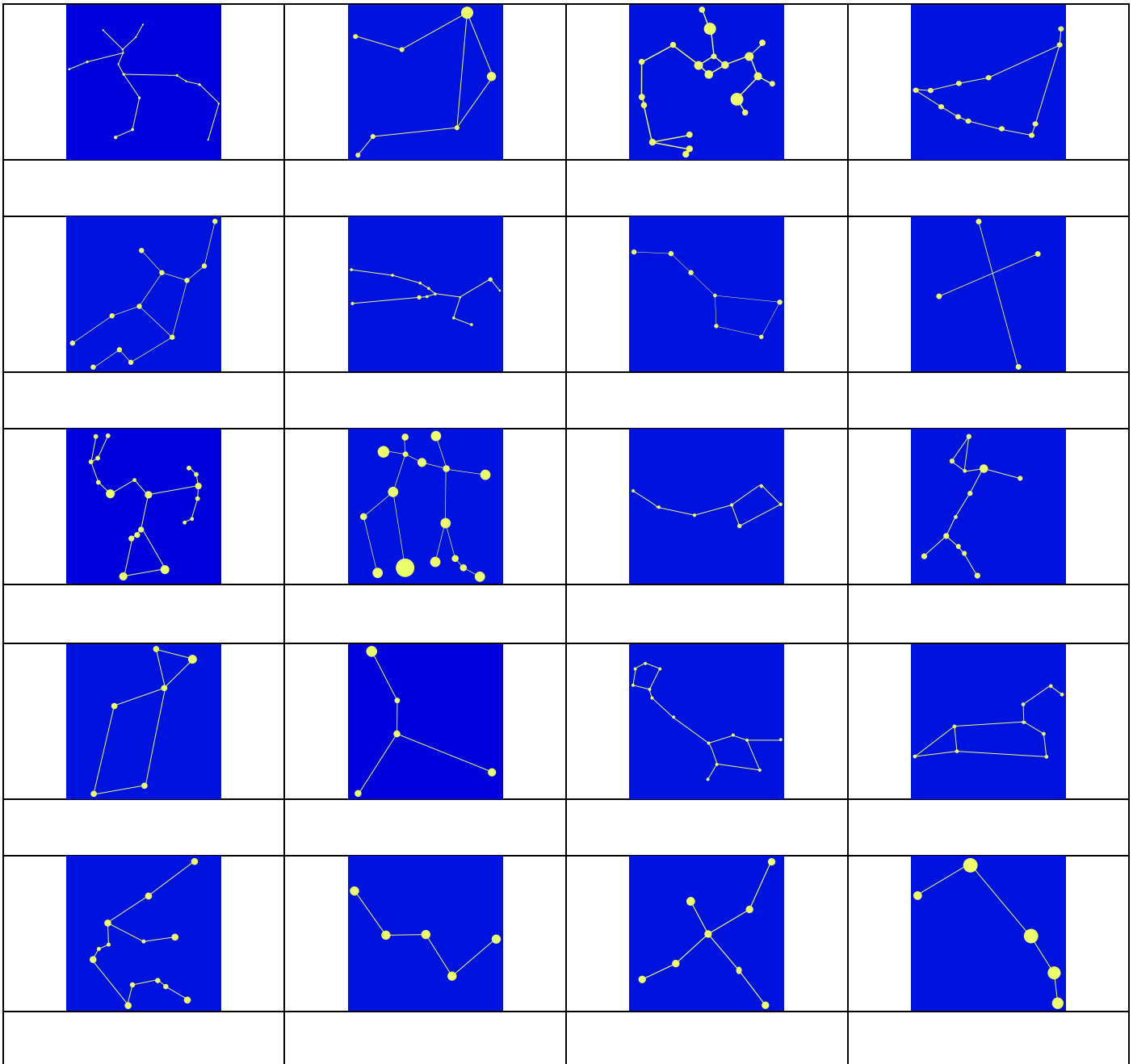


The Sky at Night

Ancient cultures were keen observers of the sky at night. The Middle East was the birthplace of astronomy and influenced Greek astronomical works. Observation of the stars by mankind had occurred for millennia.

The ancients noticed that certain stars, when grouped together, appeared to form recognisable patterns or shapes that represented characters from myths or legends and historical events. So, they linked these stars together to form a pattern. Ancients also studied the motion of the stars in the night sky, so they knew when it was time to plant crops and then harvest them; in effect, a calendar.

Pictured below, there are twenty named star groupings. The images are not to scale. These groupings have common names. Can you name them? To help, the names you can match up with are listed below.



Aquarius	Aries	Cancer	The Great Dog	Capricorn	Cassiopeia	Centaurus
Lyra, the Lyre	The Hunter	Sagittarius	The Bull	The Plough	Virgo	
The Whale	Crux	The Swan	Gemini	Leo	The Scales	Little Bear

