

CUSP BORN



Science vs. Story: Can You Tell the Difference? (cont.)

Try These Statements (continued)

www.lorrainehawley.com

- Horoscopes can reliably predict future events.
- A person's zodiac sign determines their personality.
- Constellations have been used to help people track seasons and navigate.
- The positions of constellations can appear to change throughout the year.

Educator's Key & Discussion Notes

Scientific Perspective: Scientific evidence does not support the claims that zodiac signs or horoscopes determine personality or reliably predict future events. Constellations are apparent patterns formed by stars at vastly different distances from Earth. Observations of the sky, however, have long helped people track seasons, navigate, and study our Universe.

Historical & Cultural Perspective: Across cultures and throughout history, people have used the night sky to create stories, explain natural phenomena, mark seasons, navigate, and preserve cultural traditions. Many of these stories continue to influence literature, art, and storytelling today.

Educators' Goal: Students practice evaluating claims, identifying evidence, distinguishing scientific conclusions from cultural traditions, and engaging respectfully with differing perspectives.

Literary Connection: Cusp Born draws inspiration from zodiac mythology to create an imagined fantasy world. Discuss how authors can transform mythology, history, and cultural traditions into fictional world-building while distinguishing fiction from scientific fact.

Extend + Reflect

Write a short response:

1. What is the difference between a claim that can be scientifically tested and a belief or story passed down through generations?
2. Why might people create stories to explain things they observe in the natural world?
3. Research a constellation myth and share how it reflects the culture that created it.
4. Choose one claim from today's activity. What evidence would you need to determine whether it is scientifically supported?
5. Create your own fantasy belief inspired by something in the night sky. Then explain how a scientist might investigate whether that belief could be tested.