

ANDROMEDA'S
CHAINS

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ANDROMEDA'S CHAINS

Andromeda, chained to a rock, was waiting to be killed by the sea monster sent by Neptune! It was either the kingdom or her! King Cepheus, her father, was willing to sacrifice his beautiful daughter to save his kingdom from being eaten by the sea monster. "Oh, Mother, why did you boast I was more beautiful than the sea nymphs?" cried Andromeda! Queen Cassiopeia made the sea nymphs angry, and they had complained to Neptune. Neptune sent the sea monster as a punishment. The only way to stop the monster was to sacrifice Andromeda. Out of nowhere, Perseus, a man with winged sandals, swooped down and saved the princess. They married and flew off on Perseus' winged-horse, Pegasus. This dramatic Greek myth with its characters and constellations can be found in the fall sky.

TERMS USED FOR DIRECTIONS IN THE SKY

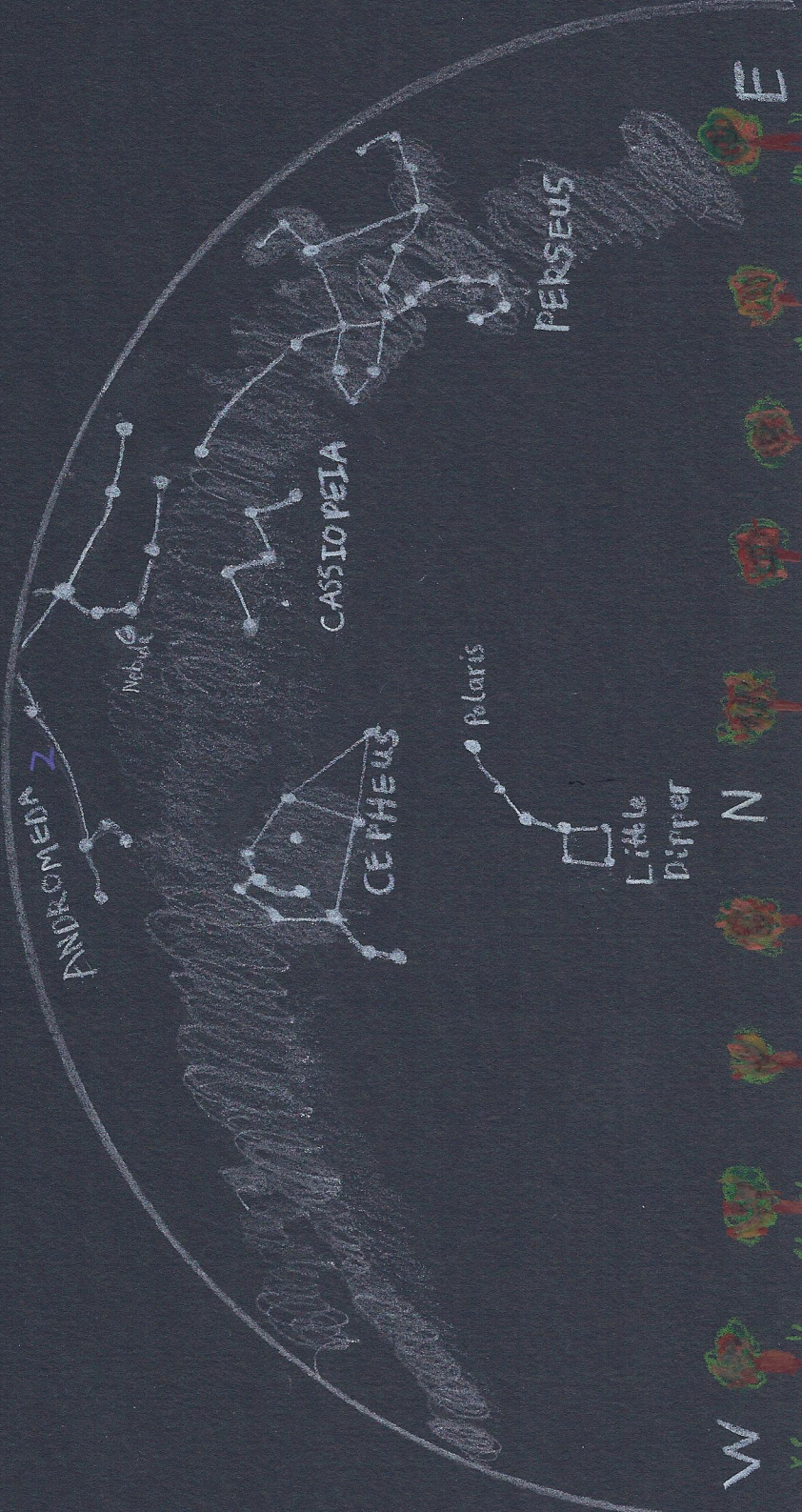
Zenith is a term for the point at the top of the sky. Zenith is used to help you find locations of constellations, and it's abbreviated with the letter z.

Polaris is the North Star. It tells you that direction is north. Polaris never moves, so it is always north.

The **Milky Way** looks like a cloud of steam in a rainbow shape that stretches all the way across the fall sky from east to west. It's really millions of stars, but you can't see the stars one by one.



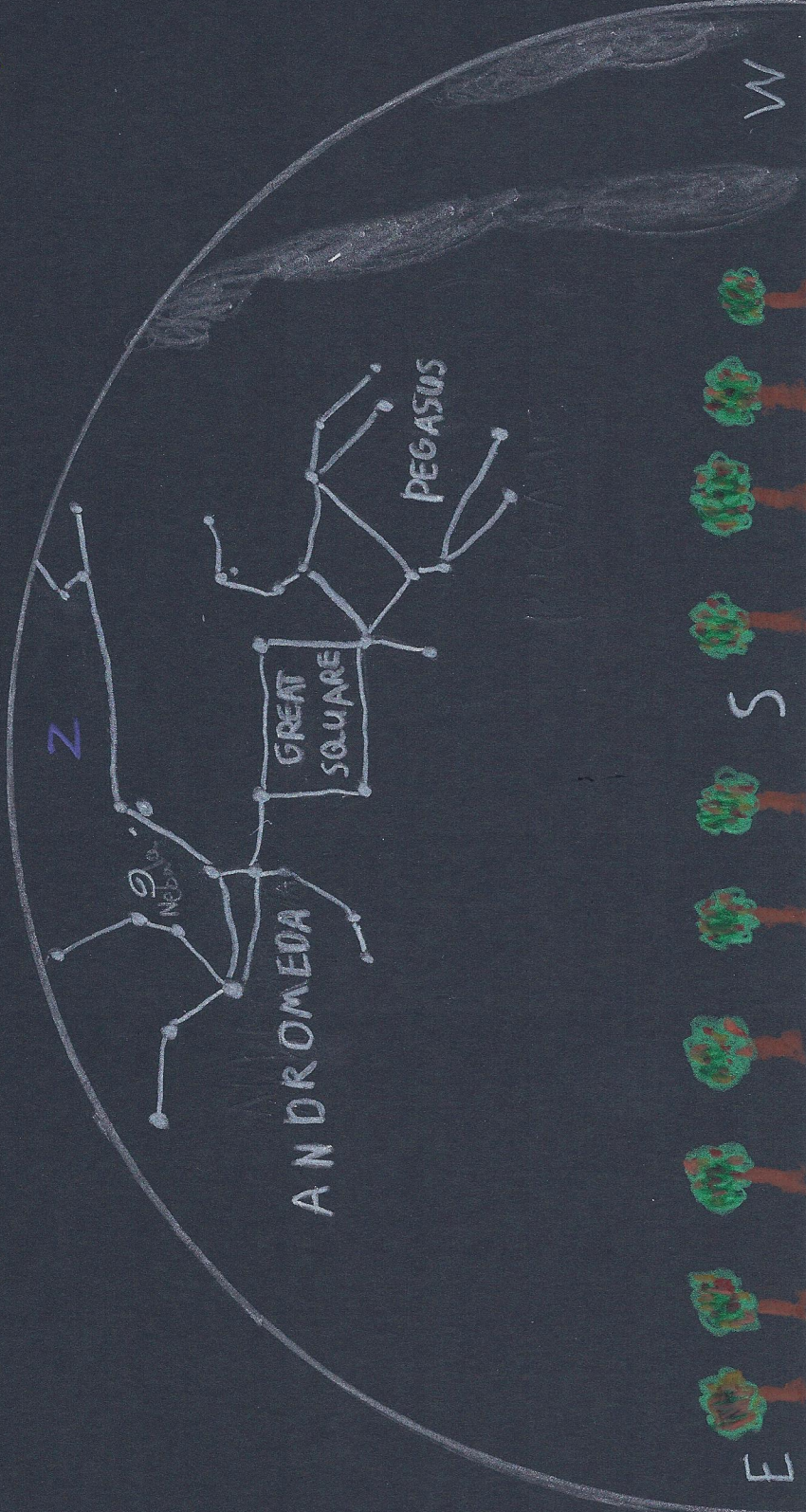
Facing North



E
N
W

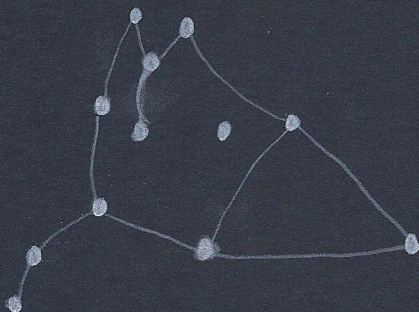


Facing South





CEPHEUS



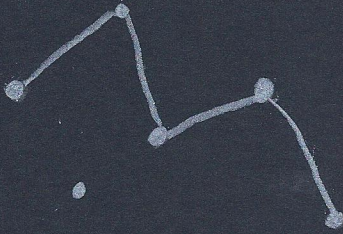
HOW TO FIND THE CONSTELLATIONS

KING CEPHEUS

King Cepheus is the easiest to find first because he is closest to Polaris. Find the Little Dipper, and at the top of the handle is Polaris. Start going up from Polaris towards zenith. You will find a star that is at the point of Cepheus's hat. You will find his block head and his triangular hat in the Milky Way. He looks like a clown. It looks like he is lying on his back, and he's looking towards zenith. His constellation has twelve stars.

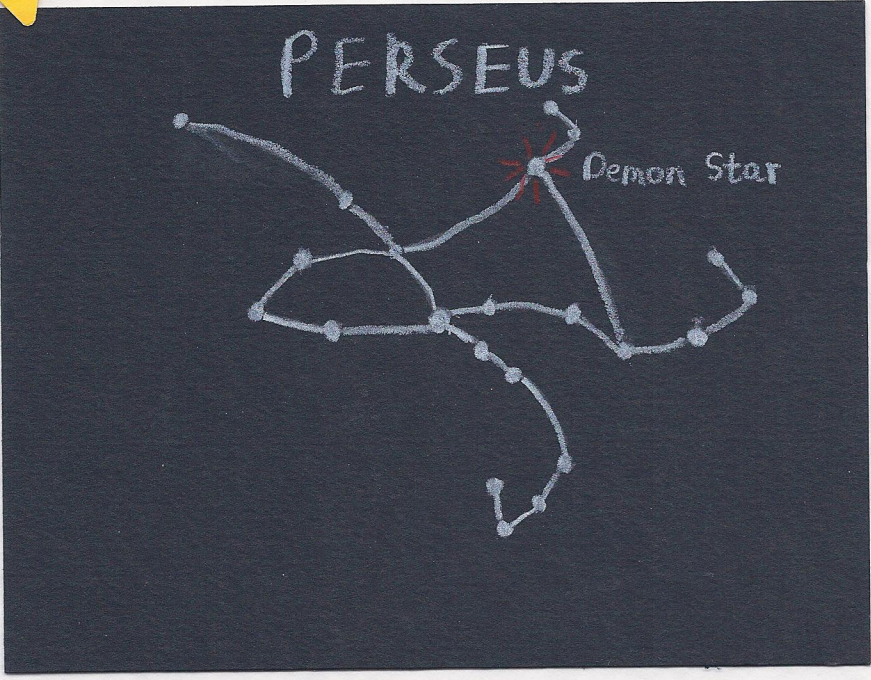


CASSIOPEIA



CASSIOPEIA

You will be able to find Cassiopeia next. She is in the Milky Way, too. Cassiopeia has five stars that look like an M in a zig-zag shape. She is to the east of Cepheus.



PERSEUS

Perseus is holding Medusa's head in one hand and his magic sickle in the other. You can find Perseus to the east of Cassiopeia in the Milky Way. This constellation of twenty-two stars is his whole body falling backwards. On the eye of Medusa there is a star called the Demon Star. It's the second brightest star in this constellation, and it looks like it's blinking. It blinks because it's a double star system with a smaller white star, which is brighter, rotating around a larger red star that is dimmer.



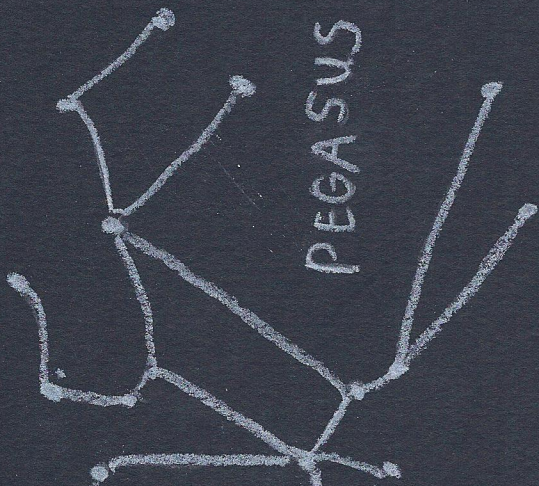
ANDROMEDA AND PEGASUS “THE GREAT SQUARE”

Andromeda and Pegasus are easy constellations to find because together they make the Great Square of Pegasus' constellation. Andromeda and her chains are above Cassiopeia at the zenith on the south side. The constellation is her whole body which looks like she is falling forward into the Milky Way. She has twenty stars in her constellation. Andromeda has a galaxy as one of its double stars on her knee. The galaxy is 2.7 million light years away. It's our neighbor galaxy. It looks so small but it's a hundred billion stars right in that little curly-cue of haze. She has three stars in a zig-zag that make up her chains just west of zenith. Her head is one star, the northeastern star, of the Great Square. The Great Square constellation is located just south of zenith. The other part of the Great Square is Pegasus's wing. He looks like he is flying northwest towards the Milky Way. He is in the southwest sky, and has sixteen stars. You can see Pegasus' head, his body, his four legs, a tail, and his wing in the Great Square.



A N D R O M E D A

G R E A T
S Q U A R E



P E G A S U S



CONCLUSION

BE GREEK!

Different books have different pictures and stories about these constellations. All the stories aren't exactly the same. I used the book *Find the Constellations* by H. A. Rey. He uses stick figures for drawing the constellations. The constellations in different books have different numbers of stars. I'm amazed that the Greeks came up with these stories thousands of years ago, and we still search for them today like they did. Be Greek! Go find these constellations and share the myth.

