

**“What’s My Sign” Activity (Accessible Version):** (created and developed by Laura Venner)

Making an accessible version of the “What’s My Sign Activity” is easy.

You will need the following materials: black foam core, silver paint marker, ruler, utility knife, a pencil, a copy of NASA’s “What’s Your Sign” page found at: <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/starfinder2/>, and a copy of NASA’s “Constellations in the Zodiac” page found at: <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/starfinder3/>, fabric or puff paint, Braille label maker.

- 1) Begin creating the 13 zodiac constellations by cutting black foam core boards into 4 pieces.
- 2) On each piece of black foam core write, in pencil, the name of the constellation on the top of the board and draw the corresponding zodiac symbol next to the constellation name.
- 3) Underneath the name and symbol draw the constellation.
- 4) Write the “traditional” zodiac date category on the bottom of the board.
- 5) On the back of the foam core board draw the zodiac symbol again with the corresponding date that the sun appears to “travel” through the constellation in the current age.
- 6) Once this is done use the fabric/puff paint to outline the information thereby making the information tactile. In addition to outlining the text, use the Braille label maker and attach labels for all of the text on the boards. Use filled in circles to represent the stars. Lay the boards flat and let the fabric/puff paint dry overnight.
- 7) Have the students form a circle.
- 8) Ask all the students that are Aries to stand behind the sign that represents Aries and all the students that are Aquarius to stand or sit behind the sign that represents Aquarius and so on until all of the students are standing or sitting behind what they believe to be the sign that represents their birth sign.
- 9) Have the students check the front of the signs to be sure that their date of birth falls on or between the dates listed.
- 10) Repeat this process for the other constellations of the zodiac.
- 11) Once all of the students are standing behind their zodiac constellation sign, have each group turn their boards around and check their date of birth with the dates that now appear under the zodiac sign.
- 12) Have the students stand or sit behind their new zodiac sign. Hopefully, a few students will be standing or sitting without a sign because their date of birth is not represented by the 12 signs of the zodiac. These students should have dates of birth that fall under the zodiac sign Ophiuchus.
- 13) Bring forward the board with Ophiuchus represented on it and have the Ophiuchians stand or sit behind the Ophiuchus board.
- 14) Discuss the earth’s precession and the zodiac. Point out why we do not see the constellation that we are born under during the evening on our birthday.

