The Constellation Lyra
This constellation is named for a musical instrument used by the ancient Greeks. Lyra includes the fifth brightest star in the sky, the brilliant blue star Vega.

The Constellation Cygnus
Cygnus, the swan, is one of the two mythological birds which were hunted by Hercules. This constellation also contains Cygnus X-1, the first black hole to be observed by astronomers.

The Constellation Hercules
The greatest and strongest of the Greek demigods, Heracles is often depicted pursuing his twelve labors. Hercules, the Roman name for this Greek mythological hero, is the fifth largest constellation by area.

The Constellation Cepheus
Cepheus the King is among the oldest constellations in the northern sky. Cepheus played an important part in Greek mythology. His wife, Queen Cassiopeia, and his daughter, Andromeda, are also depicted in the sky as constellations.

The Constellation Boötes
The name Boötes may originate from the Sumerian phrase Riv-but-sane, which means the "man who drove the cart." Similarly, the Romans believed that Boötes was the herdsman of the seven oxen represented by the seven stars of the Big Dipper.

The Constellation Ursa Major
Ursa Major, Latin for "Great Bear," is the third largest constellation by area. Ursa Major includes the seven stars known as the Big Dipper.

The Constellation Ursa Minor
Ursa Minor, Latin for "Little Bear," includes the seven stars known as the Little Dipper. The star at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper is Polaris, known as the "North Star."

The Constellation Draco
Draco, the dragon, is the eighth largest constellation by area, yet it contains very few bright stars. The most famous star in Draco is Thuban, alpha-Draconis, which was the "North Star" in 2800 BCE.

The Constellation Cassiopeia
Cassiopeia, the Queen, is a prominent northern constellation which is made up of five bright stars in the form of a "W" in the sky.