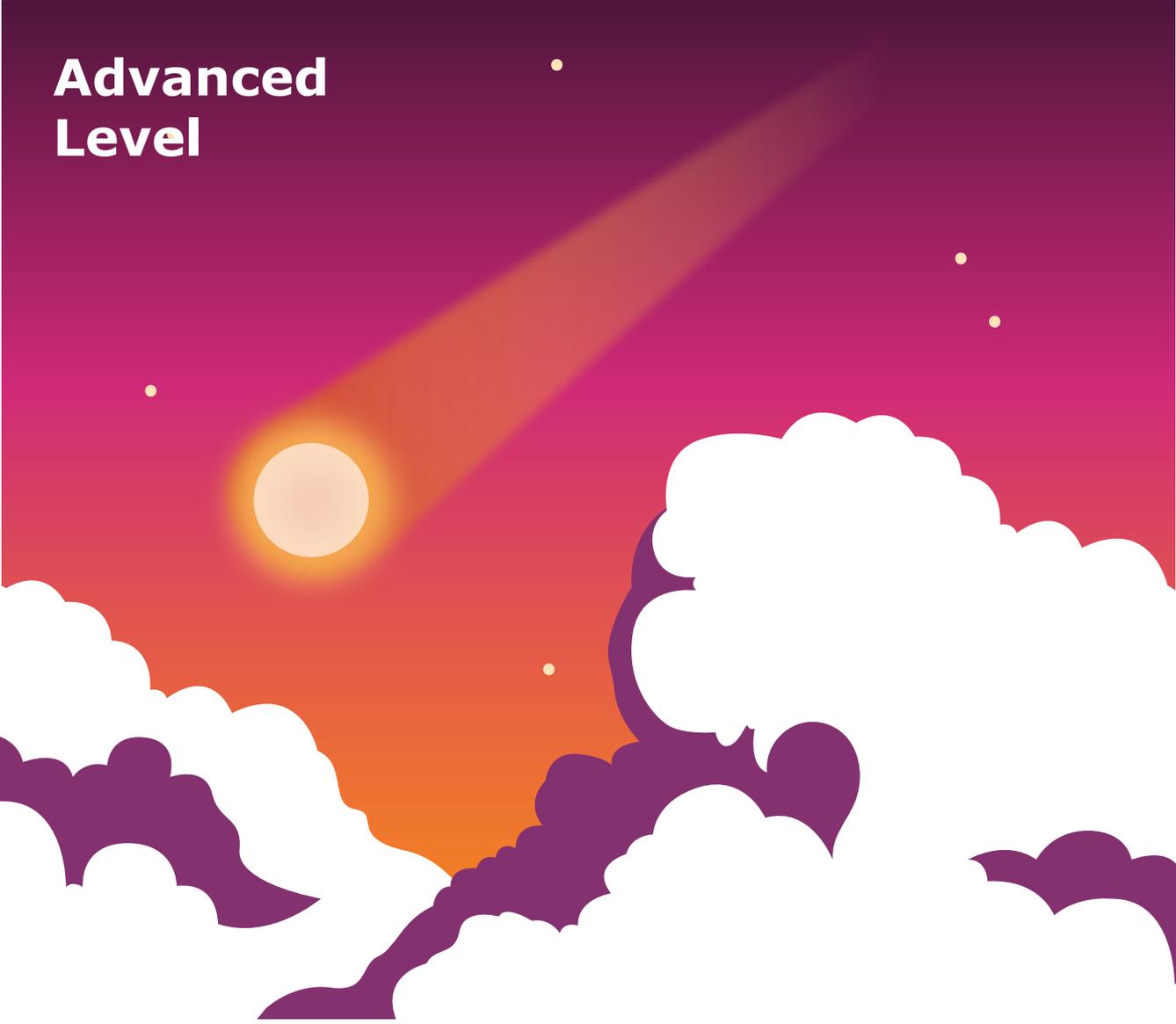


Advanced
Level



HALLEY'S COMET

Activity Book



A book of activities for your mind,
body and soul.

Did you know?

It was Chinese Astronomers who first noted a new, 'broom-shaped star' in the sky in approximately 240 BC.

This, sighting fascinated Chinese astronomers who meticulously searched and plotted the skies in search for meaning.

What was this mystical fire in the sky and what did it mean? Did it signal an apocalypse? Was it a form of communication from a higher power? We now know it was a comet and not a message from above. It's journey of discovery however, was a long one.



What is a Comet?

Comets are frozen leftovers from the formation of the solar system composed of dust, rock, and ices.

They range from a few miles to tens of miles wide, but as they orbit closer to the Sun, they heat up and spew gases and dust into a glowing head that can be larger than a planet. This material forms a tail that stretches millions of miles.

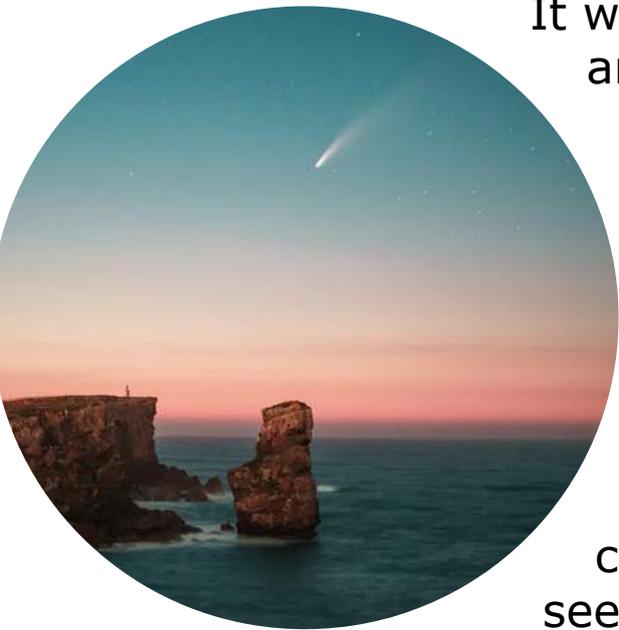
They have been referred to as 'dirty snowballs' but contain huge amounts of information about our solar system.

The current number of known comets is 3,743!



Comet Sightings Throughout History

466-467 BC, a strange ball of fire with a long tail was visible in the skies above Ancient Greece. The Greeks did not record the sightings of this celestial occurrence with such precision as the previous Chinese astronomers did but it is believed it could have been visible for approximately 82 days.



It was accompanied by strong winds and shooting stars as well as, terrifyingly, a meteor crash. Greek authors of the time described the meteor as being the size of a wagon and it being a 'burnt colour.'

Needless to say, the events terrified the population with citizens believing the gods were seeking retribution for ill deeds.

By far the most famous appearance of Halley's comet occurred in 1066, when it coincided with the Norman Conquest. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, in the months before William the Conqueror set sail for England, "a portent such as men had never seen before was seen in the heavens." Contemporary observers considered the "long-haired star" a bad omen for the English King Harold II, and the prophecy was later fulfilled when William defeated and killed him at the Battle of Hastings.

Halley's comet was later included in a section of the famed Bayeux Tapestry, which depicts King Harold and a crowd of fearful Englishmen watching it streak through the sky.



The opinion of comets as divine omens started to change in 1705, when the English astronomer Edmond Halley published his "Synopsis Astronomiae Cometicæ." By using Sir Isaac Newton's gravitational theories to chart the paths of two dozen comets, Halley hit on a new theory: three comets seen in 1531, 1607 and 1682 were actually the same object. Halley argued that the comet orbited the sun and whizzed by the Earth roughly once every 76 years, and he predicted that it would reappear sometime in late 1758 or early 1759.

Although he died before its reappearance, Halley was proved correct and the comet was named in his honour.

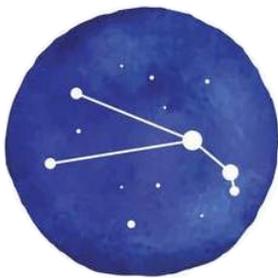


The Sky at Night

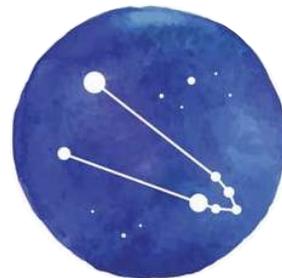
*"Silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the
angels."*

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

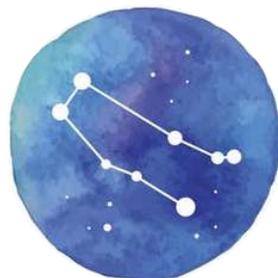
A clear night sky is a wonderful sight to behold and has been a place of awe and wonder throughout human history. Some even say the constellations of stars you are born under can have an impact on your temperament. These are collated under the 'Signs of the Zodiac'. Find your constellation sign... do you agree with your personality traits?



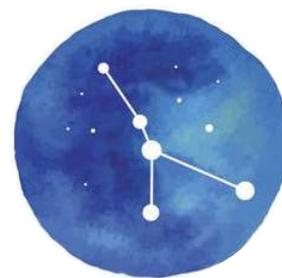
Aries: March 21 – April 19
Spontaneous, courageous.



Taurus: April 20 – May 20
Dependable, calm and sensitive.



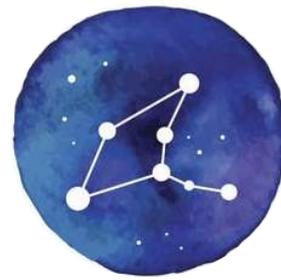
Gemini: May 21 – June 20
Inquisitive, intelligent,
great thinkers.



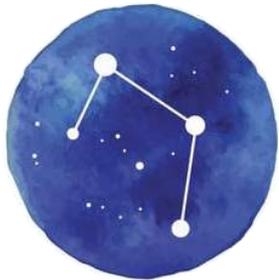
Cancer: June 21 – July 22
Emotional, loyal and
intuitive.



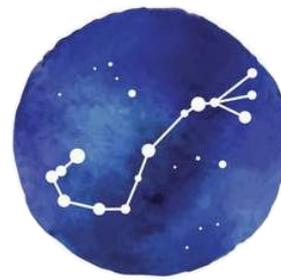
Leo: July 23 – Aug 22
Natural leaders and proud.



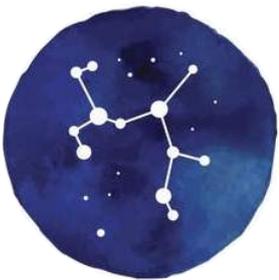
Virgo: Aug 23 – Sept 22
Practical, responsible, a perfectionist.



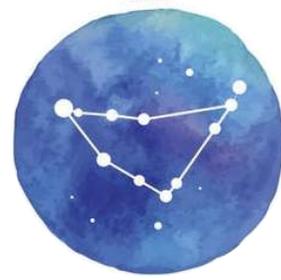
Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22
Extroverted, friendly and a natural peace-maker.



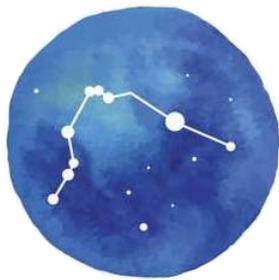
Scorpio: Oct 23 – Nov 21
Emotional and powerful.



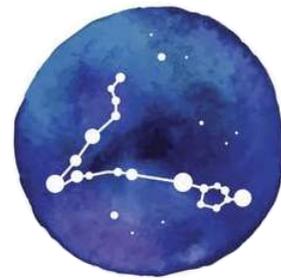
Sagittarius: Nov 22 – Dec 2
Adventurous and fiery



Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 19
Ambitious and determined.

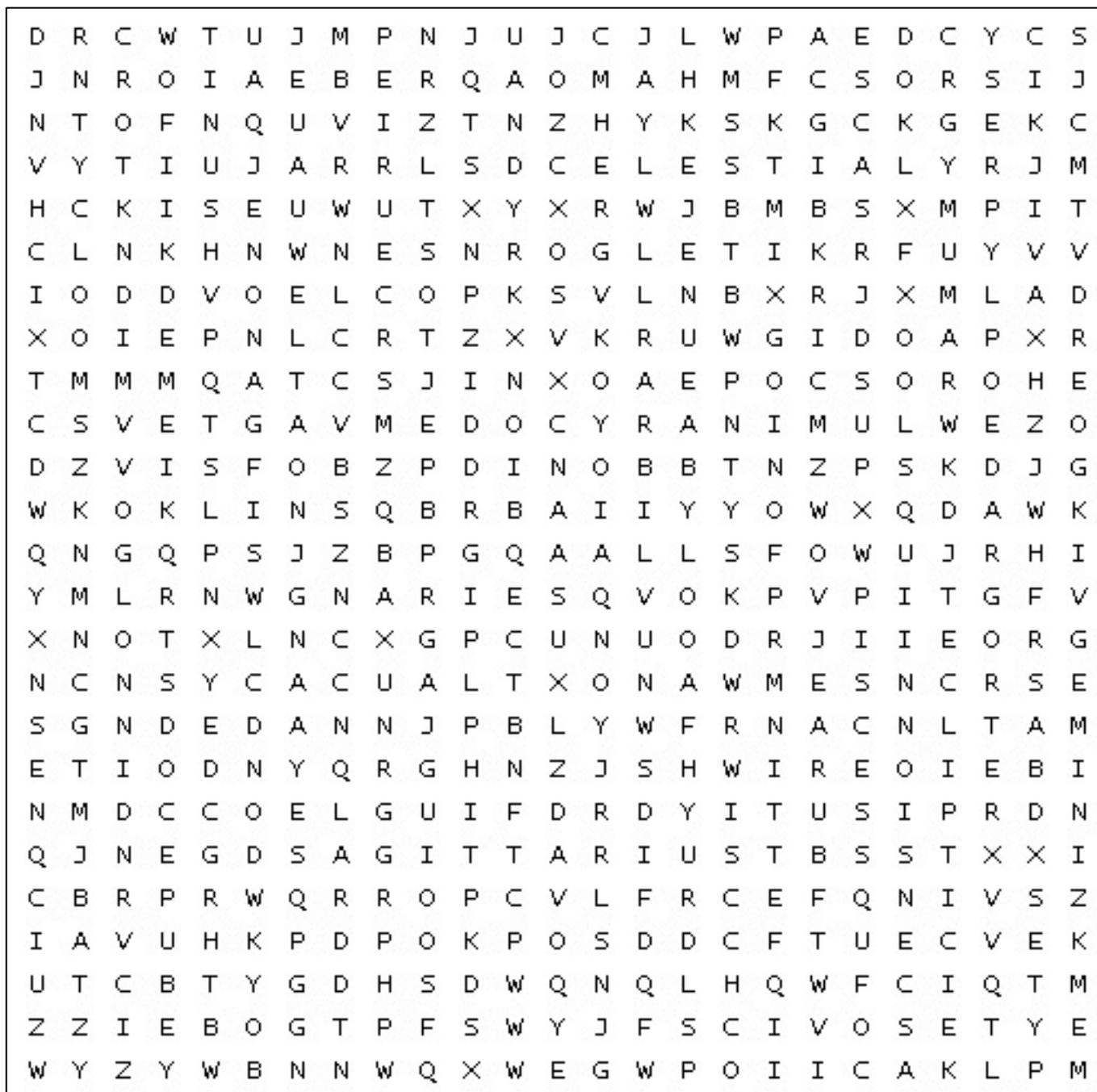


Aquarius: Jan 20 – Feb 18
Calm, optimistic



Pisces: Feb 19 – March 20
Creative and empathetic

Signs of the Zodiac Wordsearch



ACRONYCHAL
ASCENSION
CELESTIAL
DESCENSION
GEMINI
LIBRA

NOCTURNAL
SAGITTARIUS
VIRGO
AQUARIUS
CANCER
CONJUNCTION
LEO

ECLIPTIC
HOROSCOPE
LUMINARY
PISCES
SCORPIO
ARIES
CONSTELLATION

CAPRICORN
EQUINOX
MIDHEAVEN
RETROGRADE
TAURUS

Astronaut Colouring

