

## **Moody Planetarium Self-Guided Tour**

### ***Orion* Laser Show**

#### **ABOUT *ORION* LASER SHOW**

- ♣ The show lasts about 20 minutes.
- ♣ It is the Greek legend of Orion
- ♣ Laser show operator will turn on the stars after the laser show and point out 5 constellations (Orion, Taurus, Perseus, Andromeda, Cassiopeia)

#### **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Before coming to the Planetarium, study the legend of Orion
2. Enter planetarium and help students find seats
3. Lights will dim
4. Watch *Orion* laser show
5. While operator shuts down the laser show and turns on the stars, discuss the legend of Orion
6. Operator will point to Orion, Taurus, Perseus, Andromeda and Cassiopeia constellations; teacher may point out additional constellations

#### **SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

- ♣ Read Greek myths about the origin of other constellations
- ♣ Study other cultural legends about the origin of the constellations
- ♣ Study the evening sky chart to determine what constellations are in the night sky over Lubbock this month (sky charts can be found at the planetarium counter)
- ♣ For older students, check out our Amazing Astronomy traveling trunk for additional lesson plans and science experiments

## Legend of Orion the Hunter

[Note: this is one legend of Orion the Hunter, and is not the same as the laser show]

Greece: the classical representation of the hero Orion shows him kneeling with his raised right arm brandishing a club, a shield or lion skin in his left. Orion was born to the childless widower Irieus, a poor shepherd, who invited the gods Zeus, Poseidon and Mercury to dinner without knowing who they were. Unable to offer them anything to eat, he butchered the only animal he had, an ox, and made them comfortable. For his sacrifice and hospitality the gods offered him anything he could want. Irieus asked for a son and Orion was born from the ox skin some months later. As Orion grew he became a great hunter, a friend and lover of the goddess Artemis. Her brother, Apollo, became jealous of Artemis' infatuation with Orion and attempted to have him killed by a scorpion placed on his hunting path. As Orion approached, the scorpion fled. With the hunter in pursuit it jumped into the ocean and swam with Orion close behind. Apollo placed a beam of light on the swimmer and dared his sister to hit the tiny spot on the water. Never one to pass on a chance to showcase her hunting skills, Artemis killed her lover with a single arrow. His body washed up on the shore the next day. In her sorrow she asked that Zeus place him in the sky where he could remain for eternity with his hunting dogs and the hare Lepus. Apollo insisted that the scorpion be placed in the sky as well to commemorate the hunter's downfall.

A constellation associated with Orion is Taurus, the ox from which he was born. Two star clusters, the Pleiades and the Hyades, represent daughters of Atlas who were the object of his unwanted affections. In an attempt to repel his advances the women were placed in the sky out of his reach. When Zeus agreed to allow Orion to become a constellation, he kept the hunter far enough from the sisters so that he could chase but never catch them. The scorpion is positioned so that it faces him. Sagittarius was placed next to the scorpion, with drawn bow aimed at the scorpion's heart should he try to advance toward Orion.

Source: <http://www.ufrsd.net/staffwww/stefanl/myths/orion.htm>

