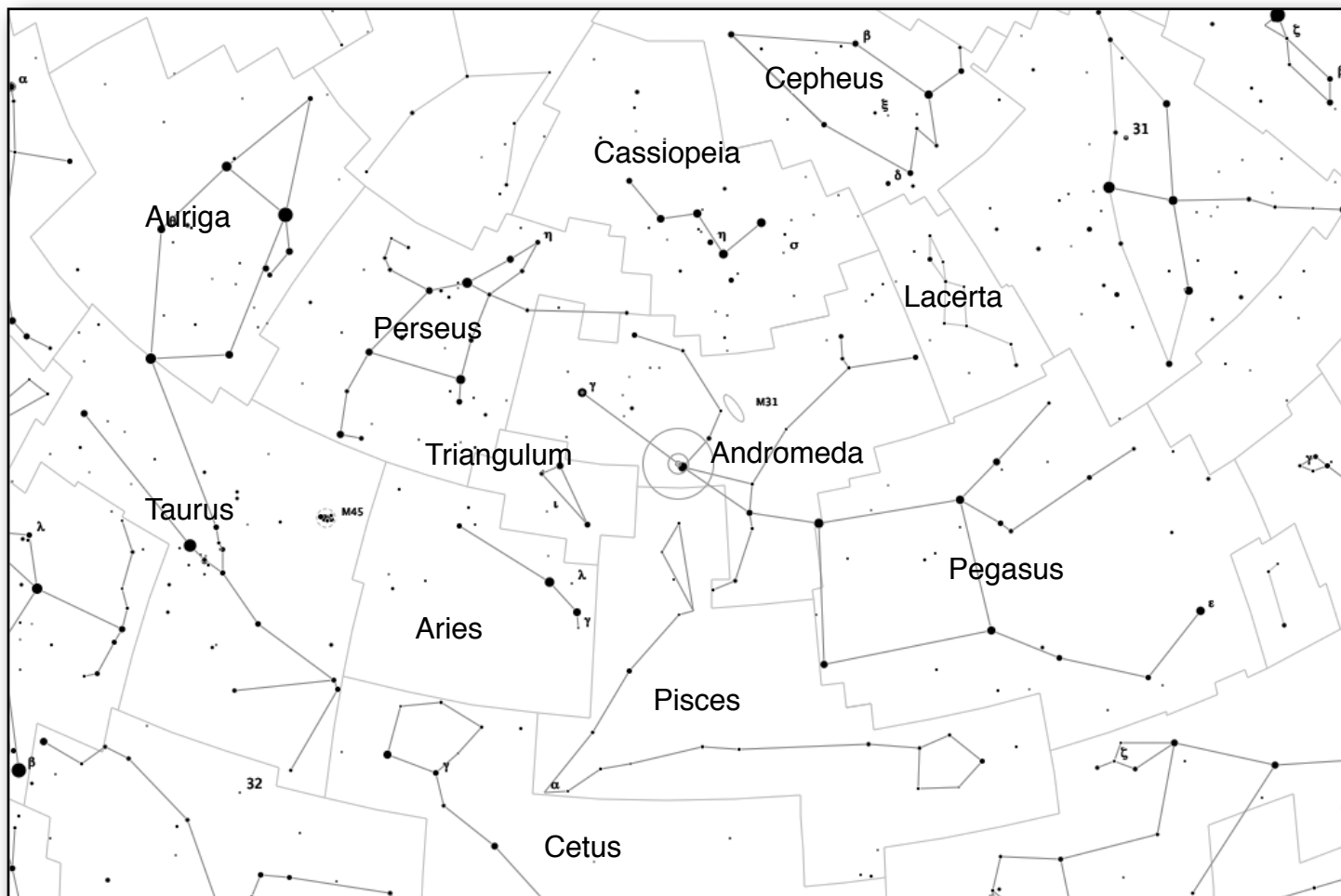


## Hopping Around Andromeda



As the Summer Triangle sets for another season, the Fall constellations rise up for our viewing pleasure. The constellation Andromeda isn't one to stand out on its own, but it's not too hard to find if you can spot the "W" of Cassiopeia or the Great Square of Pegasus.

- ☉ If you can see the "W" of Cassiopeia, then take the right portion of it as an arrow and it will point in the general direction of the Andromeda Galaxy, M31. Take the width of the "W" as an estimate as to how far away to look.
- ☉ You may have seen the Great Square of Pegasus over the Summer. (Remember the horse is upside down) If you take the top left star, you'll find a line of stars to the left. Hop over two along this line, then up two to find a star near the Andromeda galaxy. This is bit more complicated than the Cassiopeia arrow method, but it's a little more accurate.
- ☉ Below Andromeda and Pegasus is the zodiac constellation: Pisces, the fish (plural). The stars in Pisces are quite faint so the constellation is difficult to make out.

- Left of Cassiopeia and Andromeda is the constellation Perseus. A stick figure of a man can be seen with some practice. I often see a fish hook at the top first before I recognize the rest of the constellation. A notable star in Perseus is Algol, the demon star. It dims every 2 days, 21 hours or so.
- Below and left of Andromeda is the constellation Triangulum. Around midway between the point of Triangulum and Beta Andromedae is the spiral galaxy, M33.
- Below Triangulum is another zodiac constellation Aries, the Ram. There are only three brighter stars that you'll be able to see easily.
- Below Pisces is Cetus the Whale, or Sea Monster. This constellation is low to the horizon, so you can see why the Greeks associated it with the sea.

There is a lot of Greek mythology related to this part of the sky. Andromeda is the daughter of Queen Cassiopeia and King Cepheus. She was tied to a rock as a sacrifice to Cetus, but Perseus came by and saved her. To learn more, research the "Boast of Cassiopeia" at the library or on the internet.