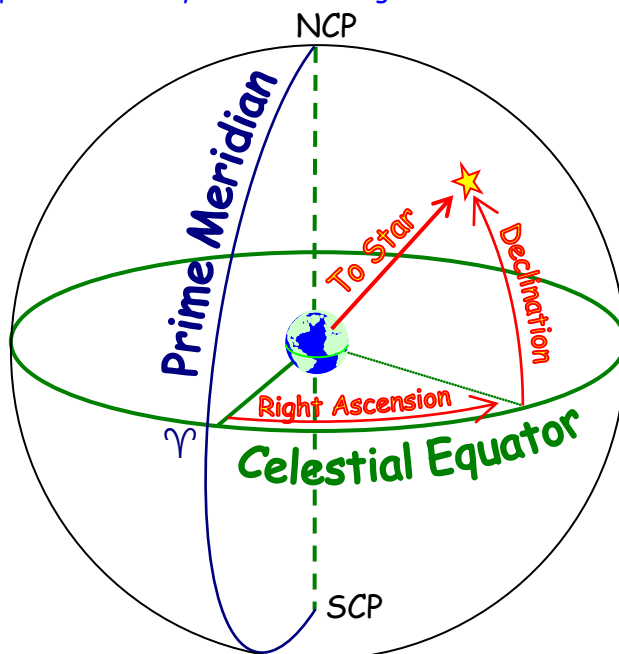


Celestial Coordinates

I. RIGHT ASCENSION AND DECLINATION

A way to locate a point on the sky is to use its right ascension and declination:



DECLINATION (Dec or d): Measures the angle north or south of the celestial equator $\pm 0^\circ$ to 90°

Celestial Latitude ... parallels of declination

DEGREES, ARCMINUTES, ARCSECONDS: $0^\circ 0' 0''$ to $90^\circ 0' 0''$

RIGHT ASCENSION (RA or α): Measures the angle east of the prime meridian from 0h to 24h

Celestial Longitude ... great circles of right ascension

HOURS, MINUTES, SECONDS: $0^h 0^m 0^s$ to $23^h 59^m 59^s$

On your celestial globe

★ identify the **celestial equator** and find the **hours of right ascension** markings

★ identify the **prime meridian** and find the **degrees of declination** markings

¹²Using the RA and Dec markings, identify the stars located at the following coordinates. Use Appendix 2 in the *Peterson Field Guide* to confirm these and find the Bayer designation.

RA	DEC	STAR NAME	CONSTELLATION	BAYER DESIGNATION
6 ^h 45 ^m	- 16° 43'	Sirius	Canis Major	β CMa
18 ^h 37 ^m	+ 38° 47'	Vega	Lyra	α Lyr
5 ^h 15 ^m	- 8° 12'	Rigel	Orion	β Ori
7 ^h 39 ^m	+ 5° 14'	Procyon	Canis Minor	α CMi
6 ^h 24 ^m	- 52° 41'	Canopus	Carina	α Car

Look up in Appendix 2 (in order of RA)

¹⁸On **BOTH** charts from the Field Guide, use colored pencils to highlight and label the

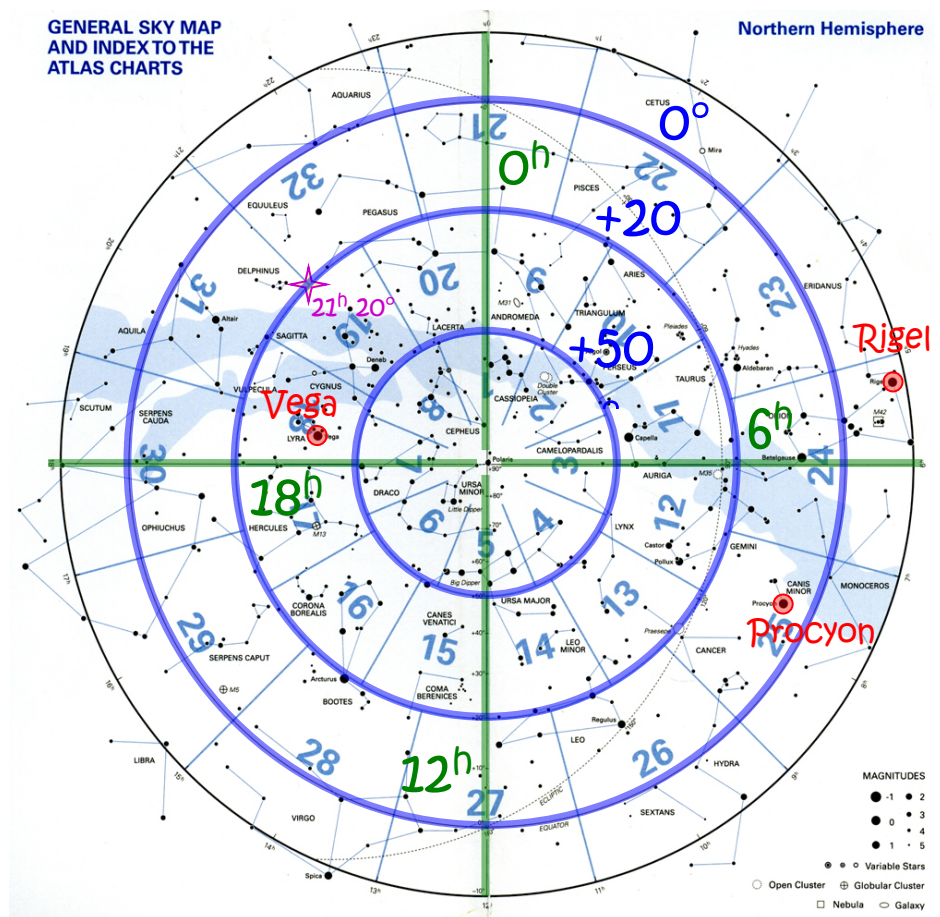
- lines of 0^h , 6^h , 12^h and 18^h
- circles of 0° , $+20^\circ$, $+50^\circ$, -20° , and -50° .

¹⁰Also highlight and label the stars listed on the flip side of this sheet.

⁴In what constellation is the point $21^h, +20^\circ$? (Use the Atlas Chart!!)

Velpecula

(Use your field guide to read the numbers since these are very small!!)



Southern Hemisphere

GENERAL SKY MAP AND INDEX TO THE ATLAS CHARTS

