

# Exploring Pegasus - Educator's Guide (Ages 8-11)



## At the end of these Night Sky activities students will understand:

- Pegasus is a constellation seen in the Fall (or autumn)
- The Great Square of Pegasus is the main part of the constellation
- Stars in Pegasus have names derived from the Arabic language
- Globular clusters like Messier 15 are giant groups of stars

## Astronomy background information

Pegasus represents the front half of the legendary winged horse, surprisingly to people in the northern hemisphere it is upside down in the sky. Pegasus is easy to find in the sky. The common names of stars are usually derived from Arabic, reflecting the great contributions of historical Muslim astronomers. The stars of Pegasus include Enif “Nose”, Markab “Saddle” and Scheat “Upper Arm”.

Three of its stars are at corners at a famous asterism called the Great Square of Pegasus. The fourth star in the Great Square is called Alpheratz (from the Arabic for “Horse’s Navel”) and is part of the adjoining constellation Andromeda. Pegasus includes other objects apart from stars such as the globular cluster Messier 15.

## Night Sky App Essential Settings

Go to Night Sky Settings  and make sure the following Preferences are set.

### Turn On these Effects:

Environment Based Horizon  
Real Sky Representation  
Show Constellation Lines  
Enable Messier Objects

### Turn Off these Effects:

Show Satellites  
Day Time Effect  
Show Ecliptic Line  
Show Trajectories and Orbits  
Show Glass Mythology

## Accessible Learning:

- Text size can be increased in the Preferences section
- Star numbers can be reduced by sliding two fingers down the screen

