GIFT THE STARS

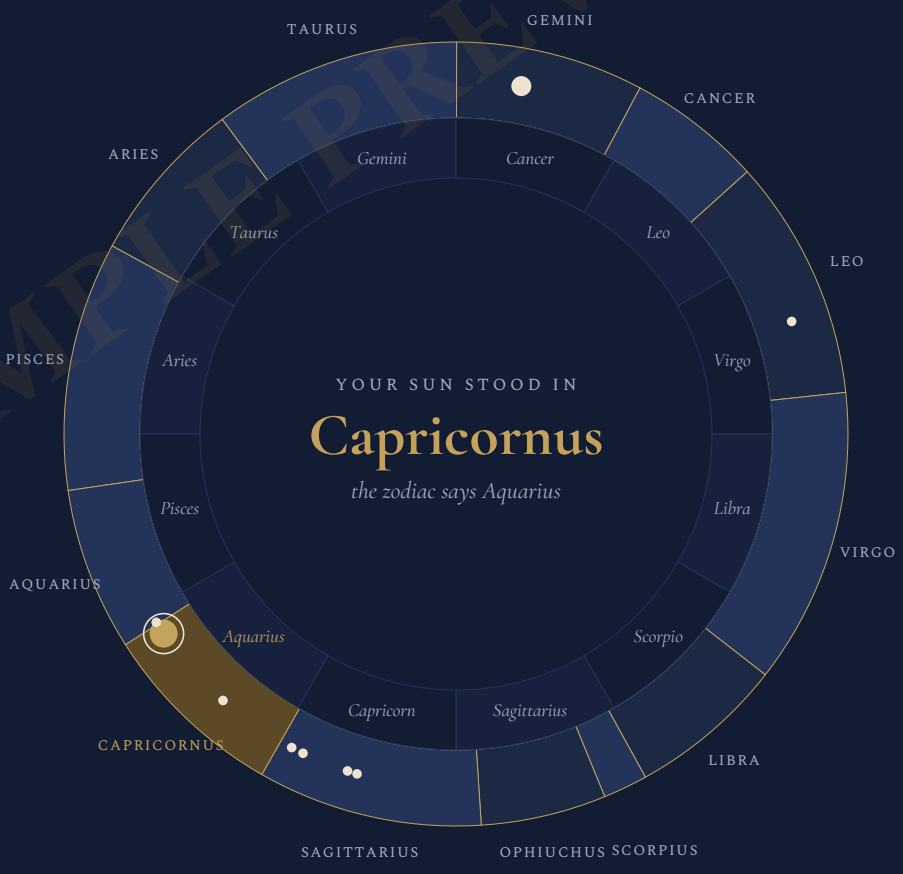
BIRTH SKY REPORT

The Sky You Were Born Under

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

the fourteenth of February, 1992, at 9:00 PM

SAMPLE PREVIEW



Outer ring: the 13 constellations the Sun passes through, at their true widths (IAU boundaries).
Inner ring: the 12 equal signs of the zodiac. Dots: the Moon and planets that night.

On the evening of February 14, 1992, the sky over Chicago held a bright Moon high in the south and Jupiter climbing in the east. This report records that sky as it really was at 9:00 PM: where the Sun, the Moon and the planets stood among the stars, computed for that moment and place.

NO. GTS-920214-4WQC

The night you arrived

The sky in the minutes around your birth, and your big three

It was a winter evening in Chicago when you arrived, about three and a half hours after sunset. The Moon, a bright waxing gibbous, rode high in the south among the stars of Gemini, 71 degrees above the horizon. In the east, Jupiter had climbed 27 degrees into the sky in Leo, the brightest point after the Moon, while the stars of Virgo were coming up over the horizon below it. Every other planet had already gone down with the Sun. Pollux, your birthday star, shines in Gemini too; the light reaching us from it now set out around the year you were born. That sky, at that minute, over that city, was arranged only once.

SAMPLE PREVIEW

YOUR SUN

Capricornus

the constellation behind the Sun

zodiac sign: Aquarius

YOUR MOON

Gemini

waxing gibbous, 85% lit

zodiac sign: Cancer

RISING

Virgo

coming up in the east

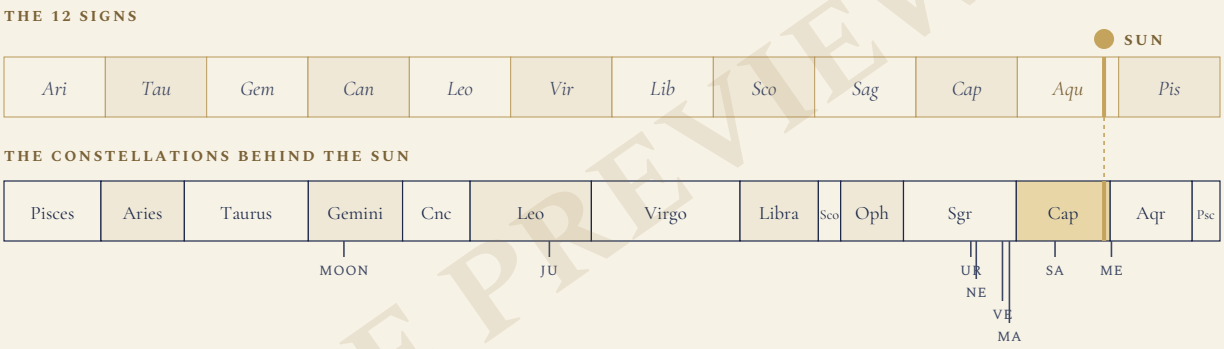
zodiac sign: Libra

Your Sun stood in Capricornus, while the zodiac gives the date to Aquarius. The Moon was in Gemini; the zodiac convention calls it a Cancer Moon. And rising on the eastern horizon at 9 PM was Virgo, where the convention would put a Libra rising. Each of the three sits one constellation behind its sign, which is precession at work: the same two-thousand-year drift, shown three times in one sky.

Constellations are the real ones behind each body (IAU boundaries). Signs are the zodiac convention for the same date, shown for comparison.

Where the Sun really stood

The zodiac sign, and the stars behind the Sun that day



The zodiac gives this date to Aquarius, but on the day you were born the Sun was standing in front of the stars of Capricornus. Neither is a mistake. The twelve signs are equal 30-degree slices of the sky, fixed about two thousand years ago, while the constellations are unequal patches with real borders. Since then the slow wobble of Earth's axis, called precession, has shifted the calendar against the stars by almost a whole sign. At 9 PM the Sun itself was 40 degrees below your horizon.

The planets along the band

BODY	CONSTELLATION	ZODIAC SIGN	AT YOUR MOMENT	MAGNITUDE
Moon	Gemini	*Cancer*	*up, 71° south*	*85% lit*
Mercury	Aquarius	*Aquarius*	*below the horizon*	*-1.6, very bright*
Venus	Sagittarius	*Capricorn*	*below the horizon*	*-3.9, very bright*
Mars	Sagittarius	*Capricorn*	*below the horizon*	*1.3*
Jupiter	Leo	*Virgo, retrograde*	*up, 27° east*	*-2.5, very bright*
Saturn	Capricornus	*Aquarius*	*below the horizon*	*0.6*
Uranus	Sagittarius	*Capricorn*	*below the horizon*	*5.8*
Neptune	Sagittarius	*Capricorn*	*below the horizon*	*8.0, telescope*

Retrograde: seen from Earth, the planet was drifting backwards against the stars that day, as Earth overtook it.

The planets were spread along the band of the zodiac. Mercury was in Aquarius. Venus and Mars were both in Sagittarius, along with the faint outer planets Uranus and Neptune. Saturn was in Capricornus, close to the Sun, and Jupiter stood in Leo, on the opposite side of the sky. Of all of them, only Jupiter was above your horizon that night.

SAMPLE PREVIEW

Overhead at your moment

What stood above the horizon, and the Moon that night

SAMPLE PREVIEW



ABOVE THE HORIZON

Moon, 71° south
Jupiter, 27° east

BELOW THE HORIZON

Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune



Waxing Gibbous

85% lit, in Gemini
rose 1:08 PM · set 4:41 AM

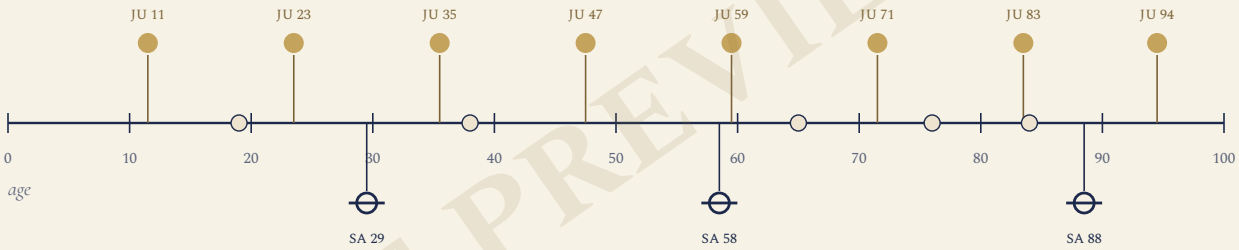
At 9 PM the only planet up was Jupiter, 27 degrees above the eastern horizon and shining at magnitude minus 2.5, brighter than any star. With the Moon high in the south, those two were the brightest things in your sky. Every other planet had already set, so the dome on this page belongs to the Moon and to Jupiter.

The Moon was a waxing gibbous, 85 percent lit, standing among the stars of Gemini. It had risen at 1:08 in the afternoon, and by 9 PM it was high in the south, 71 degrees above the horizon. It would not set until 4:41 the next morning, so it watched over the whole of that night.

Drawn as seen lying on your back with your head to the north: east is on the left. Times are local (America/Chicago).

Coming back around

Orbits that close, eclipses, and birthdays the Moon repeats



Gold: Jupiter completes an orbit (about 12 years). Ringed: Saturn completes an orbit (about 29.5 years). Pale discs on the line: Moon-echo birthdays.

Jupiter takes about twelve years to circle the Sun, so it came back to where it stood at your birth at 11, again at 23, and returns next at 35, in 2027. Saturn is slower: it completed its first full orbit since your birth at 29, in 2021, the moment astrologers call a Saturn return, and comes round again at 58. On your birthdays at 19, 38, 65, 76 and 84, the Moon shows the same phase it showed the night you were born.

Eclipses nearest your birth: a annular solar eclipse on January 4, 1992, 41 days before you were born; a partial lunar eclipse on December 21, 1991, 56 days before you were born.

YOUR BIRTHDAY STAR

Pollux, in Gemini

34 light-years away: the light arriving from it in 2026 left the star around 1992. Hipparcos 37826.

Every position here was computed for your moment and place. The same stars are still up there; the sky has simply turned many thousands of times since that night.

Mayukh Bagchi

MAYUKH BAGCHI, FOUNDER

PhD candidate in astronomy

How this was computed: positions of the Sun, Moon and planets from the VSOP87 and ELP theories through astronomy-engine, corrected for light time and aberration; constellations from the official IAU boundaries (Delporte 1930); horizon for your latitude and longitude, with atmospheric refraction. Accurate to better than a minute of arc.

SAMPLE PREVIEW

✦ GIFT THE STARS ✦ NO. GTS-920214-4WQC

Certificate of the Sky

This certifies that these stars stand exactly where they stood in the sky over

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

on the fourteenth of February, 1992, at 9:00 PM

LATITUDE
41° 52′ 41″ N

LONGITUDE
87° 37′ 47″ W

DATE AND LOCAL TIME
February 14, 1992, 9:00 PM

THE MOON
Waxing Gibbous

BIRTHDAY STAR
Pollux, in Gemini · 34 light-years · HIP 37826
The light arriving from it in 2026 left the star around 1992.

STAR CATALOGUE
Hipparcos, European Space Agency

"The night you were born"

SAMPLE PREVIEW

CERTIFICATE OF THE SKY ✦ GIFT THE STARS ✦ HIPPARCOS

ISSUED
November 15, 2026

Mayukh Bagchi

MAYUKH BAGCHI, FOUNDER
PhD candidate in astronomy

Star positions computed for the date, time and place above from the Hipparcos catalogue. · Certificate GTS-920214-4WQC · giftthestars.com