

CHART THE SKIES LIKE A BABYLONIAN!

Gear up with us to have a night sky adventure! Record the moon and stars, and invent some spooky moon omens- just the ancient Babylonians did. It's fun and easy. All you need is the night sky, a pencil, some imagination and our Babylonian Night Sky Tablet Template below!

BABYLONIAN SKY GAZERS – FORTELLING THE FUTURE

Did you know that ancient people believed they could foretell the future by observing the planets and stars? Well, they did!

The ancient Babylonians from Mesopotamia relied on their priest scribes to record lunar eclipses, the phases of the Moon and movements of other planets in the sky. The scribes interpreted the movements of stars and planets as signs from the gods that could reveal fortunes and influence humans. Often the scribes would advise Babylonian Kings about how they should act and when to make laws or announcements according to the position of the moon.

The scribes recorded the moon's positions and their spooky omens on Clay Tablets in their special kind of writing called Cuneiform text.



Babylonian Cuneiform tablets .





BABYLONIAN NIGHT SKY TABLET TEMPLATE

Head outside every night with an adult for four weeks and make your own Celestial recordings and omens -like the Babylonians did. If you do this every night you will see the moon change its shape from crescent moon to a full moon! All you need is a pencil or pen. You will be able to see the moon and stars without any special equipment. But, if you have binoculars or a telescope you can use those too.

Date of observation and weather conditions (is it windy or still, hot or cold, wet or dry?)	Moon recording (draw your observation of the moon in the columns below)	Celestial and other observations (draw or write about any other objects in the sky you see in the column below.)	Omen (what should King Hammurabi of Babylon or your friends do, or be wary of under these conditions?)
Windy and foggy. Wind blowing from the South Some clouds.	Moon is very bright, round and looks like it is wearing a crown (Babylonian observation)	-Constellation Orion Visible to the East -4 unknown bright stars visible -One Bat flew by -Saw an aeroplane	The king will reach the highest rank and should make important announcements (Babylonian observation)
Stormy night, cold, giant black clouds. Wind blowing from all directions!	Moon and stars can't be seen at all. Aaah!	Its so dark and gloomy – cant see anything	Beware- The land is covered in darkness. Do kind things for other people to avoid the gods' wrath!

HAVE A GO!

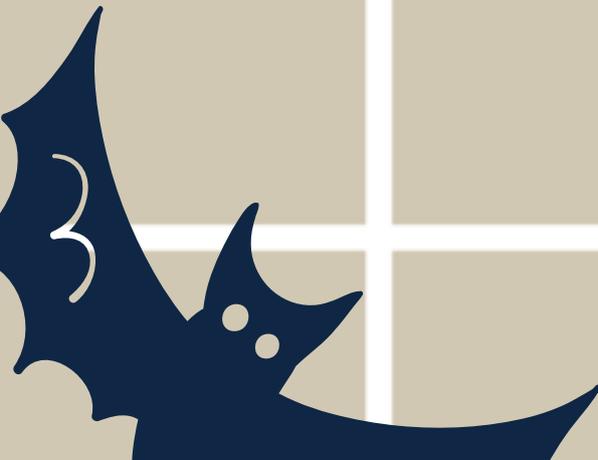


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