



DRACO

Draco is a constellation (group of stars) in the far northern sky.

The constellations name is Latin for dragon.



The Story of Draco

According to myth, Draco represents Ladon, the dragon who guarded the golden apples of Hera. Legend has it that this is the dragon slain by Heracles and in the sky Draco is shown with one foot of Heracles (a neighbouring constellation) planted firmly upon its head.



The dragon guarded the precious tree on which grew the golden apples that Hera had been given as a wedding present when she married Zeus.

She was so happy with the tree that she planted it in her garden on the slopes of Mount Atlas and had the Hesperides (daughters of Atlas) guard it. They were not very good guards, for they kept picking the apples. So Hera placed the dragon around the tree to stop anyone from taking the apples.

As one of his labours, the great hero Heracles was required to steal some apples from the tree. He did so by killing the dragon with his poisoned arrows.

Hera then placed the image of the dragon in the sky as the constellation Draco.

