

ZODIAC SIGNS AND PERSONALITY TRAITS

Game: Are these personality descriptions placed under the correct Sun signs? If yes, explain why. If no, can you figure out the rule that explains how to restore their original order or 'true' sequence?

Aries -- The Ram. March 21 to April 20.

... have a positive outlook on life, are full of enterprise, energy, versatility, adventurousness and eagerness to extend experience beyond the physically familiar.

Taurus -- The Bull. April 21 to May 20.

... is one of the most stable and serious of the zodiacal types. These independent, rock-like characters ... are cautiously confident, strong willed and calm.

Gemini -- The Twins. May 21 to June 21.

... basically possess strong and attractive personalities. They fall into two principle types: one shy, sensitive, gentle and patient; the other exuberant, lively and exhibitionist, sometimes hiding the considerable depths of their character under a cloak of frivolity.

Cancer -- The Crab. June 22 to July 22.

... is one of the less flamboyant signs and its natives possess a gentle, patient, malleable nature. They have many generous qualities and are friendly, good natured, kind and compassionate, sensitive to the feelings of those around them, and respond with the utmost sympathy and tact to any suffering they encounter.

Leo -- The Lion. July 23 to August 22.

... is adventurous, ambitious, impulsive, enthusiastic and full of energy ... a pioneer both in thought and action, very open to new ideas and a lover of freedom.

Virgo -- The Virgin. August 23 to September 22.

... are characterized by solidity, practicality, extreme determination and strength of will ... [as well as being] stable, balanced, conservative, good, law-abiding citizens and lovers of peace, possessing all the best qualities of the bourgeoisie.

Libra -- The Scales. September 23 to October 22.

... is dual-natured, elusive, complex and contradictory. On the one hand, this nature produces the virtue of versatility; on the other, the vices of two-facedness and flightiness.

Scorpio -- The Scorpion. October 23 to November 22.

... can range from the timid, dull, shy and withdrawn, to the most brilliant and famous.

Sagittarius -- The Archer. November 23 to December 21.

... are ambitious, courageous, dominant, strong willed, positive, independent, and self-confident. The word doubt does not exist in their vocabularies.

Capricorn -- The Goat. December 23 to January 20.

... are usually observant, shrewd, critically inclined, judicious, patient, practical supporters of the status quo, and tend toward conservatism in all departments of life.



BLM 13.3 Continued

Aquarius -- The Water Bearer. January 21 to February 19.

... are among the most civilized of the 12 zodiacal characters and are often good looking. They have elegance, charm and good taste, are naturally kind, very gentle, and lovers of beauty, harmony (both in music and social living) and the pleasures that these bring.

Pisces -- The Fish. February 20 to March 20.

...are the most intense, profound, powerful characters in the zodiac. Even when they appear self-controlled and calm there is a seething intensity of emotional energy under the placid exterior. They are like the volcano not far under the surface of a calm sea that may burst into eruption at any moment.

Questions:

1. How many students or groups of students figured out the real sequence, or came close to figuring it out? Does this suggest that there was a right order to discover, or that any ordering would satisfy all readers?
2. Although such Sun-sign descriptions vary from source to source, is there anything about the wording of these that either contributed to your success or difficulty at finding the 'correct' pattern?
3. If the pattern was not successfully replicated by other groups, or even within them, does this suggest that the order was subjective, or at most intersubjective (shared by group members)?
4. Humans are, inductively speaking, pattern seekers. Did you use zodiac names to make connections (Bull, Archer, etc.), or make inferences about seasons despite an effort to conceal these? Did you cross reference the attribute of 'ordinariness' (not being flamboyant) under the sign of Cancer (rightly or wrongly) to Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius (supposedly a correct attribute of those signs)?
5. Look up the term *confirmation bias* and discuss its applicability to this exercise. What did this teach you about our habits or perception and reasoning, and how might this apply to reasoning in the sciences?

