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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**zo·di·ac**  (zō dē-āk')

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*n.*

**1.**

**a. Astronomy** A band of the celestial sphere extending about 8° to either side of the ecliptic that represents the path of the principal planets, the moon, and the sun.

**b.** In astrology, this band divided into 12 equal parts called signs, each 30° wide, bearing the name of a constellation for which it was originally named but with which it no longer coincides owing to the precession of the equinoxes.

**c.** A diagram or figure representing the zodiac.

**2.** A complete circuit; a circle.

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[Middle English, from Old French *zodiaque*, from Latin *zōdiacus*, from Greek *zōidiakos* (*kuklos*), (circle) of the zodiac, from *zōidion*, small represented figure, zodiacal sign, diminutive of *zōion*, living being; see [ZOON](#).]

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**zo·di a·cal** (-dī ə-kəl) *adj.*

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