KNOW YOURSELF

The path to your destination is your choice.

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We are born at a given moment, in a given place, and like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year and of the season in which we are born.

- Carl Gustav Jung
INTRODUCTION

The project started with a question that had always intrigued me – how can the whole world population be divided into 12 parts according to their zodiac signs? Each individual is different and no two individuals show the same characteristics and behaviours. So how was the world not seeing this and still believing in astrology and zodiac signs?

All my questions were answered when I got into deeper research. I turned into a believer of astrology and zodiac signs. I was able to see many new faces of astrology and its relevance in actual life. I could see the 12 signs walking and breathing around me. Now all I wanted to do was to tell people how they could use astrology for their benefit. This was a very tricky thing to do. As soon as people heard the word 'astrology', they turned their backs and were no more interested. To get the believers and non-believers on the same platform was a challenge.

This could only be done in a fun way and that’s why I decided to design a game that would tell people about themselves and remove the cliché around astrology.
Most people think that astrology is all about predicting the future. You go to an astrologer, tell him your date of birth and he tells you what is about to happen in your life. But this is not all that astrology has to offer. It is not about predicting the future. It is more about predicting the possibilities of events that may or may not happen in the future. A person who has in depth knowledge of astrology would be able to tell you that a certain event might take place in our future. But the truth is that it is in your hands to make or break that prediction. This power comes to a person only when he knows about himself and the people around him. A deeper self-introspection can help a person in seeing his goals clearly and then he can work towards his goals in life.

Astrology is less about knowing the future and more about knowing oneself and the people around. It is true that there are different perceptions of astrology around the world, but none can be rendered useless. Every story has a history so strong that it cannot be challenged and the relevance of those stories can still be seen by keen observations.
Coming back to astrology being about knowing oneself, the 12 zodiac signs are a medium to tell people what they and the reason why they behave in a certain way in different situations. But there is so much more to zodiac signs than just sun signs. What a person is and what will happen to him is affected by not just his sun sign, but also his moon sign, ascendant, descendant, the 12 houses of the zodiacs and the positions of the planets in each house.

The story of astrology may differ from place to place, but the essence remains the same. Astrology exists to tell us about ourselves and people need to know this in order to derive the best from this wonderful theory.
The first step in the research process was brain storming. My brain storing was done in 2 ways. I asked people around me to write down words that they connect to the word 'ZODIAC' and the words that they connect to those words. This was the first way of doing brain storming. The second way was by the help of secondary research. I jotted down the important words that came from the research of the topics related to zodiacs, like the different names of stars, beliefs, elements, etc.
ROLE OF PLANETS

Our solar system as we know it today consists of the earth, the sun, the moon, and the earth other planets that revolve around the sun in a precise and ordered pattern. The dependability of this pattern allows us to go to bed each night knowing that morning will arrive on schedule tomorrow. Because each entity in our solar system moves at a different speed and rate, and in a separate path or orbit, the combinations of the placement of the planets are almost endless. At the moment of your birth, the sun, moon, and the planets were in a particular arrangement in the heavens. This exact arrangement will not be repeated for 4,320,000 years. This means another person with your exact horoscope will not walk on this earth for another 4,320,000 years. Even then, that person will never be exactly the same because of the entirely different genetic and environmental factors.

What about twins? Every four minutes the ascendant changes by one degree. This means that twins born as little as four minutes apart might have ascendants in two different signs if one of the twins was born in the last degree of an ascendant and the second twin born in the first degree of a new ascendant. True that the changes are slight and the horoscopes are very similar- but then, twins are very similar.
CONSTITUTE
A constellation is a group of stars that are considered to form imaginary outlines or meaningful patterns on the celestial sphere, typically representing animals, mythological people or gods, mythological creatures, or manufactured devices. There are 88 constellations in total out of which 12 are the zodiac signs. The names of the zodiac signs are derived from these constellations. From our viewpoint here on earth, the sun travels around the earth once each year. Within the space of that year the sun moves through all 12 constellations of the zodiac, spending approximately one month in each constellation. The sign that the sun was travelling through at the time of a person’s birth is his sun sign.
The sun is the most powerful planet. It gives us life, warmth, energy, food. It is the force that sustains us on earth. The sun is also the most important and pervasive influence on your horoscope, and in many ways determines how others see you. The position of the sun in your birth chart governs your individuality, your distinctive style, and your drive to fulfil your goals in life. You are the leading actor in the drama of your life and the role you are acting is your sun sign. Your sun sign delineates your general character.

You are a complex and unique combination unlike anybody else. We change a little every day and with every person we meet. Love, tragedy, success – each circumstance of our life alters us. However, the essential person remains. And the sun sign is the outline of that essence.

People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for.

- Harper Lee
The position of the moon in your horoscope is second only in importance to the position of the sun. The moon sign is the part of you that you see. The moon stands for emotions, instincts, and the unconscious. Moon represents your instinctive reactions and signifies your personality. Moon represents the side of you that reacts before you have time to think.
In many ways your moon personality is the one you keep hidden. It’s a part of you that you find disturbing. Moon has ruler ship over the five senses. The moon is the threshold of the subconscious. It holds dominance over the emotional sphere. It influences your receptivity to others and also how others feel about you. Obviously, therefore the moon is an extremely important factor in love relationships.

Everyone is a moon and has a dark side
That he never shows to anyone.
- Sybil Leek
After the brain storming and mind mapping I selected 3 keywords that set the direction for my research. Those were:

- Prediction
- Deeper self
- Signs

With the help of these words, I derived these research statements to work with, of which one was the most appropriate and I worked with that. Following were the options:

- We are not what we think we are.
- Astrology- Less of what will happen and more of what already is.
- The new age astrology – we are not what we think we are
- The new age astrology – know thyself
- Know Yourself
- How much we know about ourselves
- What will happen if we know our full capabilities and abilities
- Having a new look at people around us
- Future means giving the power in someone else’s hand
- Unraveling mysteries of astrology
- Empowering oneself with better understanding of self
When asked in a survey that what people think about astrology, majority (53.3%) of them said that astrology is about telling a person about his/her own characteristics. But the real question that rises from this statement is that why do people need someone else to tell them about their own characters? Why can't people figure it out themselves? What benefit does it have when a person gets to know about his own nature? Yes, it is true that history repeats itself. Astrologers use this phrase while they tell someone about his future. They study the event that had happened when the bodies were in the same position as they are now. The same positions bring the possibility of same event happening at that specific time. Although it might be noted that no one points out the occurrence of an event with full confidence. It is always mentioned that the event foretold might happen. Doubts are always shown here because a person’s actions have the power of affecting the events mentioned. Astrology does not possess the power to transform one’s life – that power lies within the person himself. So it could be said that there is some truth to the fact that astrology predicts the future. But to state it accurately – Astrology helps in predicting the possibilities of events that could happen in the future and gives an individual insights on how he can be ready to face those changes in life. Obviously those insights could only be useful when the person knows more about himself. He should know how he reacts to a certain situation and how that reaction affects him and his decisions. Knowing this can really help him in improving the situation if not turning it completely in his favour.
For my primary research I talked to a lot of people around me. As expected, some were core believers and some refused to acknowledge the very existence of astrology. There were some who were not sure where they were with the whole concept of planets determining our lives. It was because they had never given much thoughts to astrology or horoscopes. But the common thing about all of them was that they wanted to know more about themselves. With this survey I was able to reach my target audience. It gave me an insight into their minds and getting a hang of what goes on in a person’s mind while talking about astrology and self.

Through the survey I was able to know that people do not pay much attention to astrology if it is presented to them directly. Zodiac signs do interests a person if the facts mentioned are presented in a fun way. Although people are not aware of it but they do enjoy hearing about themselves from others. Hearing about self and knowing about self is the core essence of astrology and people unknowingly believe in it by taking part in online quizzes. These online quizzes offer the same things as astrology, but in a very indirect way.
4. What according to you is astrology?

105 responses

- Predicting the future: 53.3%
- Telling more about your characteristics: 31.4%
- A medium to fool people and make money: 11.4%
- Astrology is the study of the movements and relative positions of...: 4.3%
- There is truth in Astrology. What ev...: 2.5%
- Studying the positions and alignment...: 2.5%
- A misunderstood, misinterpreted sci...: 2.5%

5. What do you think astrology bases itself upon?

105 responses

- Constellations: 39%
- Movement of heavenly bodies: 16.2%
- A divine force: 15.2%
- It has no base: 12%
- I don’t know: 9.5%
- I have no idea: 2.5%
6. Do you think astrology can affect your life in anyway?

104 responses

7. How often do you read your horoscope?

105 responses
8. Do you believe in zodiac signs?
105 responses

9. Have you ever felt that you are different from your zodiac sign?
105 responses
10. Do you base your relationships/friendships on zodiac signs and their compatibility?
105 responses

11. Do you think you would do better in life if you knew more about yourself?
105 responses
12. Are you aware that zodiacs have a conscious and subconscious aspect to them?

105 responses

13. Would you like someone else to tell you about your conscious and subconscious nature?

104 responses

- Yes, I would definitely want to know more about myself even if it's from...
- No, I believe I am responsible for knowing myself and no one else sh...
- I think I'm happy with what I know and would like to explore further myself.
- I would love to hear...n will try to improve myself only if i finds it fr my...
- I have no problem. Although, honestly, I won't believe them or pa...
DESIGN BRIEF

Astrology

Brief set by:
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With the help of:
Niketa Chakraborty
Akrant Vichitra

"But I have no leisure for them at all; and the reason, my friend, is this: I am not yet able, as the Delphic inscription has it, to know myself, so it seems to me ridiculous, when I do not yet know that, to investigate irrelevant things."

Background
We all want to know more about ourselves. What we already know might seem enough at times but whenever someone points out a quality of ours, we tend to listen to them. We often find ourselves pondering at that one remark. Some of us ask for a justification for the quality mentioned. It is all about knowing ourselves. This is what astrology is. Astrology is all about us. It exists to answer questions about us. It has been described as a stairway leading into our deeper self and finding out about ourselves.

Who is it for?
The target audience is from 10 to 30 years.

What to consider?
- The complex web of astrology industry.
- The strong faith of believers and the total ignorance of non-believers.

What’s essential?
Conveying the message without hurting the sentiments of the believers and keeping the non-believers interested.
What we all want to know is about ourselves. “Who am I?” “What kind of significant other should I look for?” “Why am I discontented with my job?”.

Through my survey I came to the conclusion that people do want to know about themselves and most people think that getting more self-introspection would help them in doing better in life. But people do not want to believe in astrology. This is because of the cliché idea that runs behind astrology that it is just about predicting the future.

My design brief was to design a solution that would help people in knowing themselves better with the use of astrology. But the solution should not be directly linked to astrology as people tend to run away on seeing this very word.

I chose to make a board game because I needed a fun way to execute my idea and the brief. Believers usually take astrology very seriously and non-believers do not believe in it at all. To get both of them to the same level I had to find a fun solution. A game was the most appropriate thing to do for the same.
Cosmic Pursuit is the game of choosing the path which will help you in reaching your goals in lesser time than other players. Commencing from the “START” space, move your token around the board according to your dice roll. You decide your own path around the board. Collect the G.E.M.S. cards from the constellation of your own zodiac sign and be the first player to reach the home of your sign with all the 4 G.E.M.S. cards. On your way you’ll have to pick up trait cards. You must always obey the instructions given on the trait cards.

Object of the game:
To be the first player to reach the home of one zodiac sign with all the G.E.M.S. cards of that sign collected.

My board game has various components. Those were:

• Board
• Illustrations
• Pawns
• Cards
The inspiration of the board came majorly from the constellations. The board has been divided into 4 parts and has to be joined together. They were divided so that the players connect them to get the feeling of constellations.
15 ILLUSTRATIONS

Explorations

Aries
FINAL ILLUSTRATIONS
16 TOKENS

SPHERE
Radius - 0.5 cm
Height - 1 cm

CIRCULAR DISK
Radius - 0.5 cm
Thickness - 3 mm
There are 3 sets of cards in this game:
• G.E.M.S. Cards
• Sign Cards
• Trait Cards

The G.E.M.S. cards contain interesting facts about the 12 zodiac signs. These cards will help a player in getting to know the 12 signs better. These cards have 4 different sets of cards within them:

• Glyph Cards
• Element Cards
• Master Keyword Cards
• Stone Cards
SIGN CARDS

The sign cards have to be handed out to the players in the beginning of the game. These cards contain information about each zodiac sign. Dimension: 7.5*10.5 cm

Aries
The Ram

Aries are energetic, forceful and outgoing, like the energy of the first rush of springtime, they move into the world in a headstrong, pioneering way, and prefer starting to finishing. They tend to rush into things, and may also be impatient. They have great vitality and a tremendous need to be physically active.

Lucky Number: 1 and 9
Lucky Day: Tuesday

FRONT

BACK
Your TAURUS friend is not fond of changes. Keep this card and use it to skip changing of signs in the game.

Dimension: 5.7*8.7 cm
GLYPH CARDS

The glyph cards tell the players the meaning behind the glyph of their sign. These cards have to be collected by the players while going around the board, to win the game.
Dimension: 5.7*8.7 cm

The **Glyph of Taurus** represents the horns and head of the Bull. It also outlines the chin and Adam’s apple of the human throat (the part of the anatomy that Taurus rules). In symbolic terms, the glyph is a half-moon forming cup that rests on the circle of the Sun. The cup represents material power and wealth derived through the force of will (the circle).
ELEMENTS CARDS

The element cards tell the players what element their sign belongs to. These cards have to be collected by the players while going around the board, to win the game.
Dimension: 5.7*8.7 cm

Air people are brilliant, curious, independent, talkative (they literally fill the air with words), observant, and entertaining, but they are also impractical and restless. Air people are intellectuals always on a quest for new information.
The master keyword cards tell the players the dominant keyword of their sign. These cards have to be collected by the players while going around the board, to win the game.
Dimension: 5.7*8.7 cm
STONE CARDS

The stone cards tell the players the lucky stone of their sign. These cards have to be collected by the players while going around the board, to win the game.
Dimension: 5.7*8.7 cm

Ruby

Protects against physical injuries and ensures faithfulness. It also brings its wearer serenity of mind.
LOGO and TYPEFACE

Throughout the game only one typeface has been used. The typeface used is COMFORTAA.
The dimension of the box: 12*12*4 inches
No. of sections inside the box: 4
Dimension of sections: 2 of 6*6 cm and 2 of 8*11 cm
Cosmic Pursuit is a game inspired by astrology and zodiac signs. Astrology and zodiac signs have always been a controversial subject. People fight over the relevance of the stars and planets affecting us from so far away. But if one looks closely into the matter then it could be realised that astrology cannot be totally dismissed as irrelevant. The stars do affect us and the people of the same zodiac sign do show some similar traits and characteristics. This game will help the players in knowing about themselves and the other zodiac signs.

CONTAINS:

- Gameboard
- 12 sign cards
- 48 G.E.M.S. cards
- 60 trait cards
- 2 standard dice
- 12 tokens
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This game will help the players in knowing the about themselves and the other zodiac signs. With the help of this game they can relate certain behaviours of their friends which cannot be justified otherwise. Astrology is less about predicting the future and more about helping a person in knowing himself better. Deeper study can help a person accept himself and others around him and grow. The signs can be used to add meaning to life and we cannot ignore the fact that they are pretty fun.

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REFERENCES
