

SEALED BEFORE SEARCHING

The Four Objects

Pre-registration, predictions and scoring rules

APPARATUS

KEITH SHIRLEY

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Predictions, Scoring Rules and Falsification Conditions

Keith Shirley

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PRE-REGISTRATION: The Four Objects Test Written 22 November 2026, BEFORE any searching for names. Nothing below may be edited after the first search. Corrections go in a separate block at the end, dated.

The hypothesis being tested

"The Seven Who Are Six" found that fourteen traditions in at least nine unrelated language families named the Pleiades for the fact that it is a GATHERING. The explanation offered was that the object is plural, compact and leaderless, and that those properties have one meaning in any language.

That explanation was built from the Pleiades alone. It is therefore retrospective, and it is worth nothing until it predicts something it was not built on.

The refinement (made before searching, from an object already in the book)

Orion's Belt is plural, compact and leaderless, and it attracts COUNTED names in every tradition already recorded in the book: three male tortoises (/Xam, Pass 9), three zebras (Sotho-Tswana, Pass 8), the Seg and Utimal of Tagai (Torres Strait, Pass 2), the three kings and three Marys (Europe), the yoke and the scale beam.

So the property set must include a fourth term: BEYOND READY COUNTING. Three is countable. The gathering-name is what a language reaches for when counting has already failed.

Revised rule: gathering-names attach to objects that are plural, compact, leaderless AND uncountable at a glance.

The predictions

Scored only on traditions found AFTER this document was written. Names already cited in the proposal that prompted this (Jaw of the Bull, Beehive, Manger, Berenice's Hair, the Net) are EXCLUDED from scoring. They are the reason for the test, not evidence in it.

Object 1. The Hyades

Plural, compact, LEADERED (Aldebaran at magnitude 0.9 dominates), uncountable at a glance. PREDICT: gathering-names rare or absent. Names should instead be of a FACE, HEAD, JAW,

or an animal with a bright eye, or should name Aldebaran and treat the rest as its attachment. FALSIFIED IF: heap, crowd, assembly, herd or group names appear at a rate comparable to the Pleiades in unrelated families.

Object 2. Praesepe, M44

NOT plural to the unaided eye. A single misty patch. Leaderless, compact. PREDICT: singular-object names. Cloud, mist, smoke, breath, a nest, a manger, a wound, a gate. Also predict it is ABSENT from most traditions entirely, because a faint smudge near no bright star is easy not to name at all. FALSIFIED IF: it attracts heap and assembly names across unrelated families. NOTE: this object also tests the eyesight question from the other side. Any tradition that counts Praesepe is reporting exceptional seeing or a telescope.

Object 3. Coma Berenices

Plural, leaderless, NOT compact (roughly five degrees of loose scatter), uncountable at a glance. PREDICT: names of DISPERSAL. Hair, veil, dust, chaff, spilled grain, scattered things, foam. Predict specifically that gathering-names are absent or rare, because the thing is not gathered. FALSIFIED IF: heap and assembly names appear at Pleiades-like rates.

Object 4. Orion's Belt (the control that generated the refinement)

Plural, compact, leaderless, COUNTABLE. PREDICT: counted names, overwhelmingly three-something. Gathering-names absent. FALSIFIED IF: heap and assembly names are common. This prediction is partly postdicted from the book and is flagged as such. It scores only on traditions not already in "The Seven Who Are Six".

Object 5. The Magellanic Clouds (southern hemisphere only)

NOT plural. Two separate singular misty patches. Leaderless. PREDICT: singular names, probably of cloud, ash, fire, water, or a pair of animals or siblings. Predict the PAIR is named more often than either member. FALSIFIED IF: heap and assembly names appear.

Object 6. Ursa Major / the Big Dipper (the second control)

Plural, NOT compact, has a SHAPE, countable at seven. PREDICT: shape names. Wagon, plough, bear, ladle, coffin, seven of something counted. Gathering-names absent. This is the strongest control in the set, because it is the most widely named object in the northern sky and its

names are abundantly documented. If it attracts gathering-names, the whole property account collapses.

Scoring rule, fixed in advance

For each object, count traditions in UNRELATED language families and record the name family: gathering, face/head, dispersal, singular-object, shape, counted.

The hypothesis SURVIVES if gathering-names are concentrated in the Pleiades and absent or rare in all five controls, and if each control's own predicted name-family dominates it.

The hypothesis FAILS if gathering-names are spread roughly evenly across objects, which would mean they are a general feature of star-naming and say nothing about the Pleiades.

The hypothesis is WEAKENED but survives if the controls behave as predicted in some families and not others, which would mean the property account is one factor among several.

Known hazards, written down in advance

1. Most published star-name lists are compiled by Europeans and over-report what resembles European names. The Pleiades book already flagged this for the sisters motif.
2. Richard Hinckley Allen's "Star Names" (1899) is the source behind most popular lists and is unreliable on non-European languages. Anything resting only on Allen is graded contested.
3. Praesepe and Coma Berenices are faint. Absence of a name may mean nobody named them OR that nobody recorded it. Absence can only be read where the record is vast (the Mesopotamian rule established in Pass 6).
4. I will be tempted to score ambiguous names as confirming. A name is scored as gathering ONLY where the literal sense is a heap, crowd, group, herd, assembly, many, or together. "Beehive" is NOT a gathering-name, it is a container-name.