

STARS

Stars are large balls of gas that are on fire.

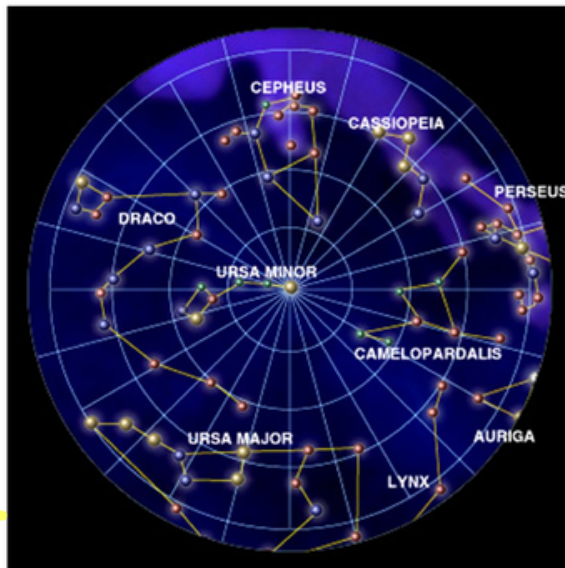
The closest Star to Earth or any other planet is the sun.

Stars are very far away and that is why they appear so small.

For instance a rocket that travels 1000 miles an hour would take 450 years to reach the sun just from Pluto.

Constellations

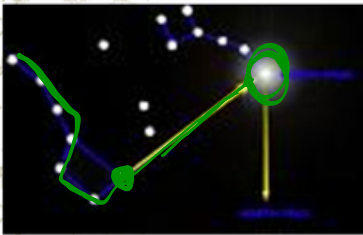
- ✦ Constellations group of stars that form a pattern in the sky
- ✦ The shapes you see all depend on your point of view.
- ✦ Stars in a constellation are NOT close to each other, but when viewed from Earth they seem to be grouped together



* Usually named after animals or made up characters.

Don't copy just listen

Constellations



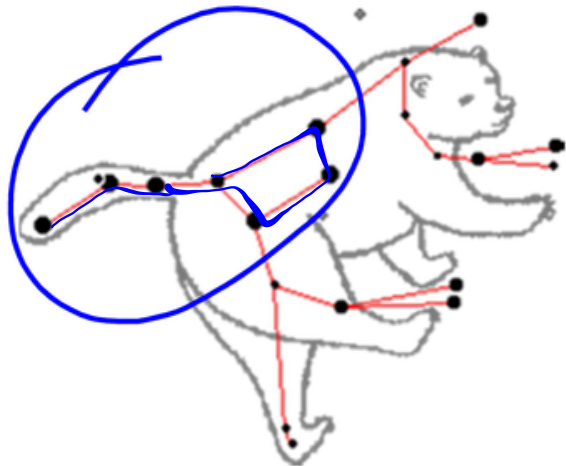
- ☀ The sky seems to turn as Earth Rotates
- ☀ POLARIS: the North Star, directly above the North Pole
- ☀ You can use Polaris to figure out direction & location

Don't copy just listen

Ursa Major



- ✧ Ursa Major is probably the most famous constellation, with the exception of Orion. Also known as the Great Bear, it has a companion called Ursa Minor, or Little Bear.
- ✧ The body and tail of the bear make up what is known as the Big Dipper.
- ✧ Most of the constellation is circumpolar, which means it can be viewed all year long. However, parts of the legs will disappear from the sky in the fall and reappear in the winter.



Just listen



Ursa Major Myth



Zeus, King of the Gods, fell in love with the beautiful Callisto, a young woman who was a hunter. When Hera, Zeus' wife, heard of what was happening she was furious and set out after Callisto. On finding her, Hera said, "Your beauty, of which my husband speaks so tenderly, is no more!" Whereupon Hera changes Callisto into a bear. Hera left Callisto with her human feelings rather than those of a bear. Callisto roamed the forest day and night in constant fear of the hunters and in fear of other wild beasts, although she was now one.

One day Callisto found herself face-to-face with a young and handsome hunter and suddenly recognized him as her son, Arcas. She raised up on her hind legs to embrace her son. Thinking that the bear was about to attack him, Arcas raised his spear and was about to hurl it and kill his mother. Zeus happened to be looking down on the scene from his position on Mt. Olympus and instantly turned Arcas into a bear also. Zeus then grasped each bear by its tail and tugged and tugged until he had managed to lift both high into the sky, Callisto as Ursa Major and her son Arcas as Ursa Minor. This tugging of tails over such a long journey through the sky, stretched both tails and explains why our celestial bears, unlike earthly ones, have long tails. The tail of Arcas became even longer since he was continuously swung around the sky by the end-star in his tail, Polaris.

On discovering that her husband had given Callisto and Arcas honored places in heaven, Hera was furious. She went down to Earth to visit her friend the ocean god, Poseidon. "How dare Zeus give these two an honored place in heaven?" Hera fumed. "They have now displaced me, Queen of Heaven, from my place in the sky. I ask you forever keep these two penned so that they may never wander far."

Poseidon was sympathetic and promised that he would grant Hera her wish. He would see to it that "the couple never would be permitted to enter our water in their wandering," in other words, that the bears forever would be forbidden to set below the horizon of the sea as other constellations do. To this day both the Lesser Bear and the Greater Bear are held high in the sky near the Pole Star, never permitted to sink beneath the sea horizon.

Design your own Constellation

_ Must provide a picture

_ Name

_ a story (half a page to 1 page)

