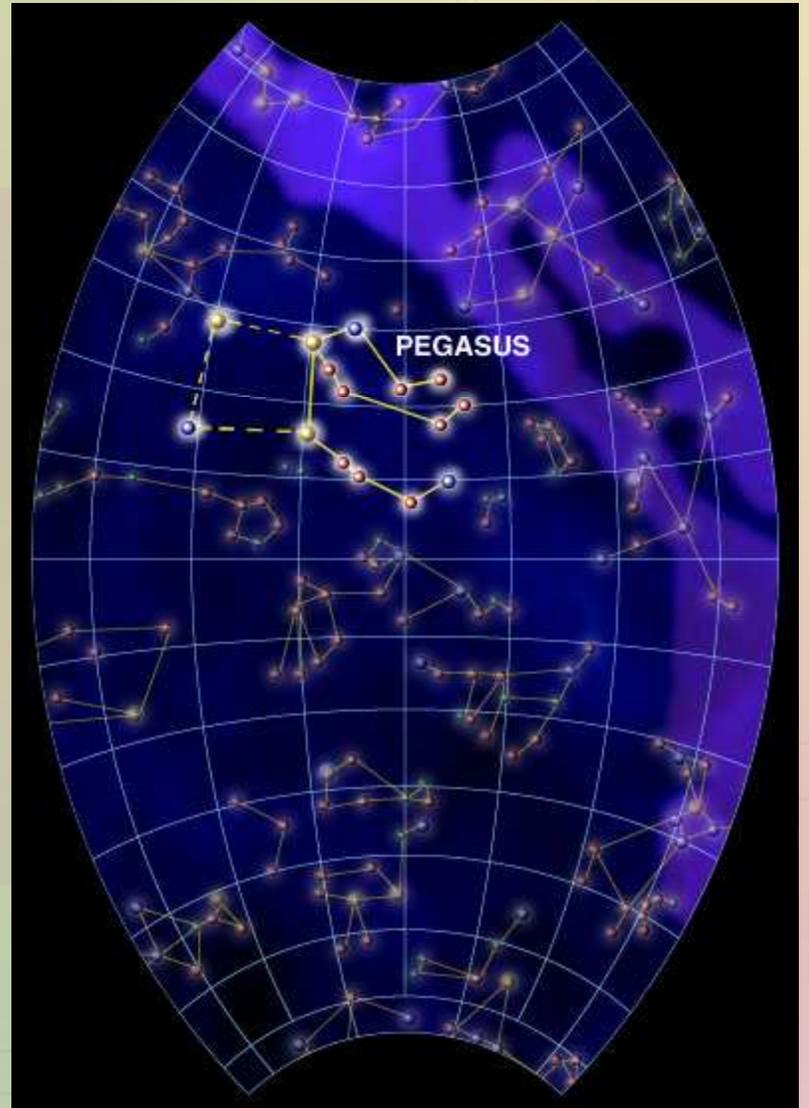
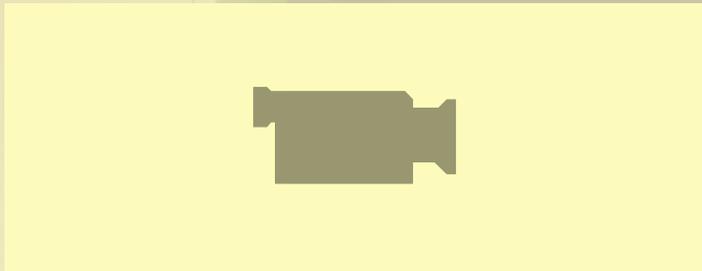


CONSTELLATIONS

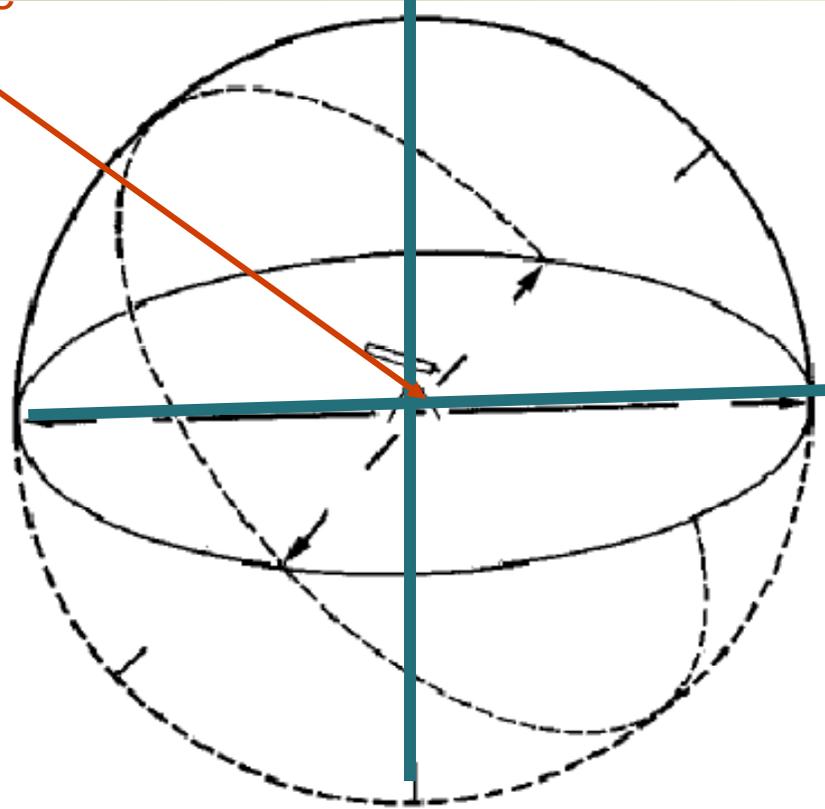


How do we locate the stars?

Zenith = point directly over head

(90.0 Degrees)

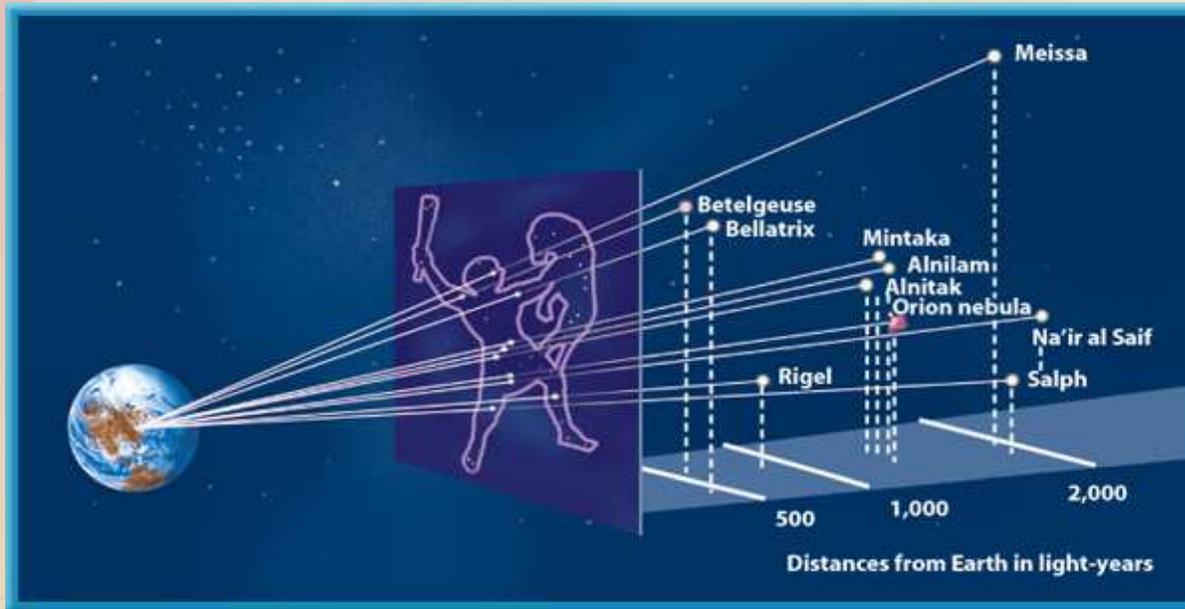
You are here



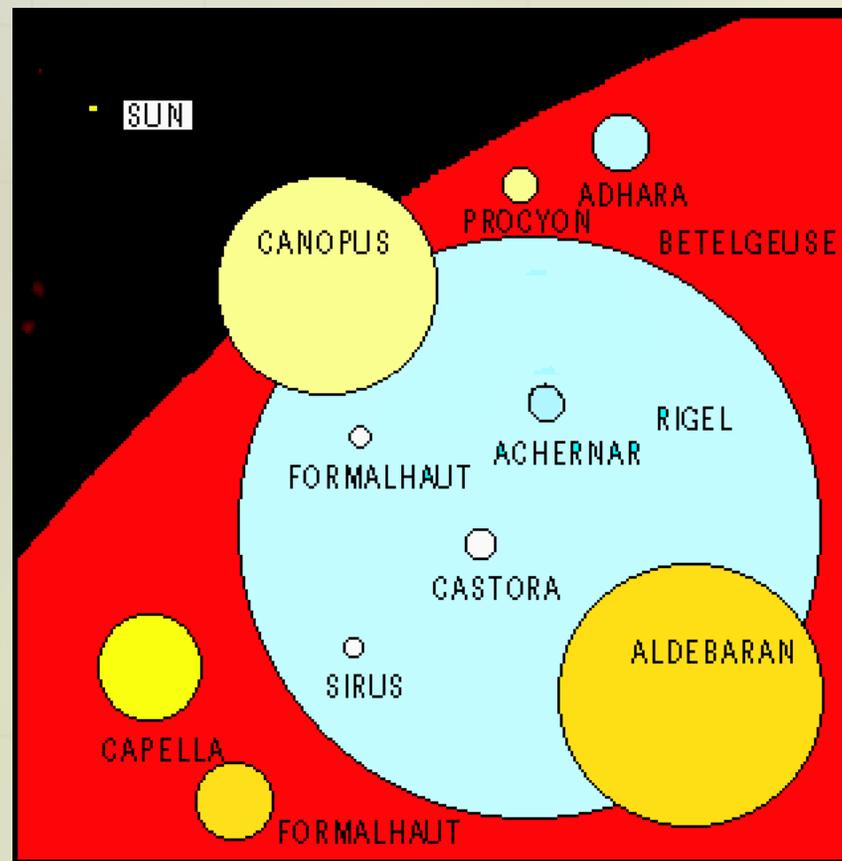
Horizon =
Edge of the sky
And ground

(0 Degrees)

Constellation



Comparison of Star Sizes



Many of the stars form specific patterns, or constellations

How many named constellations are there??

88

Who created the constellations?

Farmers who used them to tell the seasons for harvest purposes.

Sumerians and Babylonians possibly created them...made their way to Egypt where Greeks found out about them

What is an asterism??

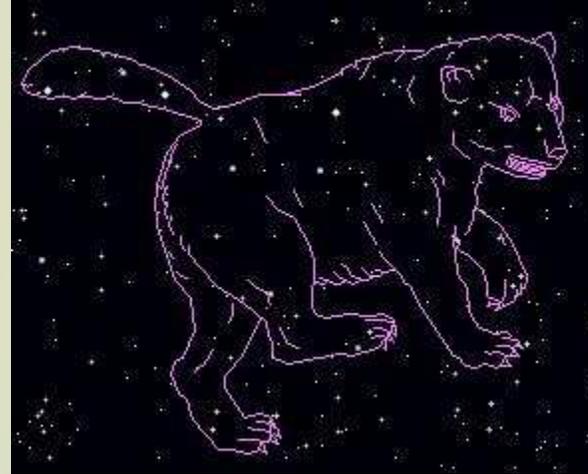
An asterism is any pattern formed by a group of stars that is not one of the official constellations. Usually an asterism is part of a larger constellation.

Big Dipper



Little Dipper

Northern Cross



Big Dipper



Ursa Major

Does everyone see the same thing??

No....

Let's use the Big Dipper (part of the Ursa Major)

British call it a plough

Southern France – saucepan

Skidi Pawnee – stretcher with a sick man

Ancient Maya – Seven Macaw

Hindu – Wise Men

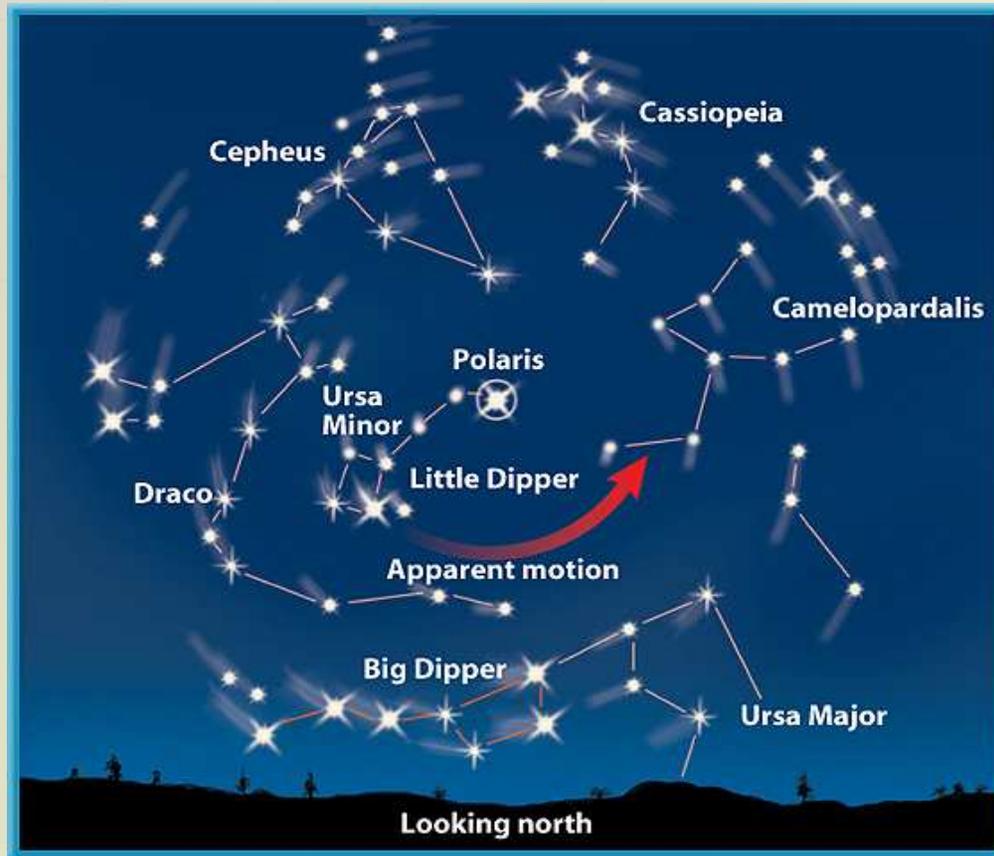
Egyptians – thigh and leg of a bull

Chinese – special chariot for Emperor

Micmac Indians of Canada – bowl of Dipper was a bear
and stars in handle was hunters

Runaway slaves – Drinking Gourd

Circumpolar Constellations



Some of these never go below the horizon. Instead, they appear to circle Polaris, (also called the North Star or the Pole Star), over the course of a night.

Orion



This is about a ten hour time exposure of the northern sky. The arcs are the paths of the stars circling the North Star (Polaris) in the center.

These stars can be seen year-round in the northern sky although their exact location each night will vary throughout the year.

Other stars appear to move throughout the night from
east to west.



These are trails of stars that are further to the south in our night sky. Their trails appear almost straight.

The constellations and the stars that make them up also appear in different locations throughout the year.