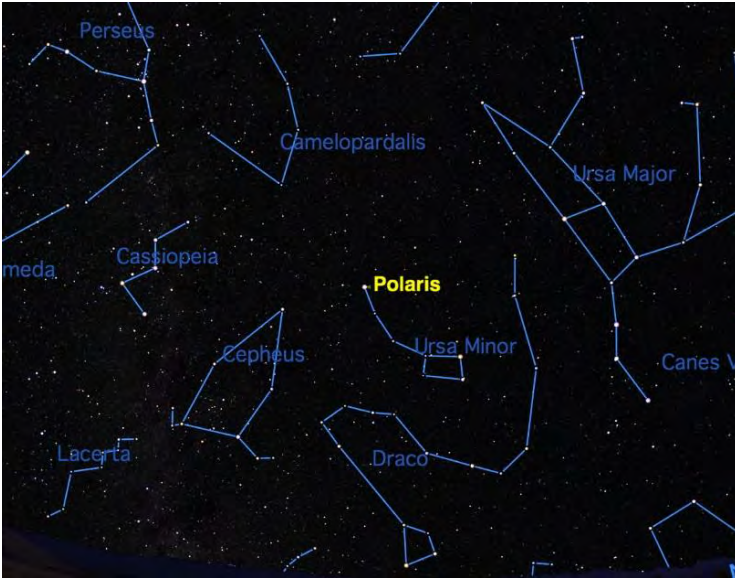


Constellations of Alaska



The Alaska State Flag depicts the North Star and the Big Dipper, which is part of the constellation Ursa Major.

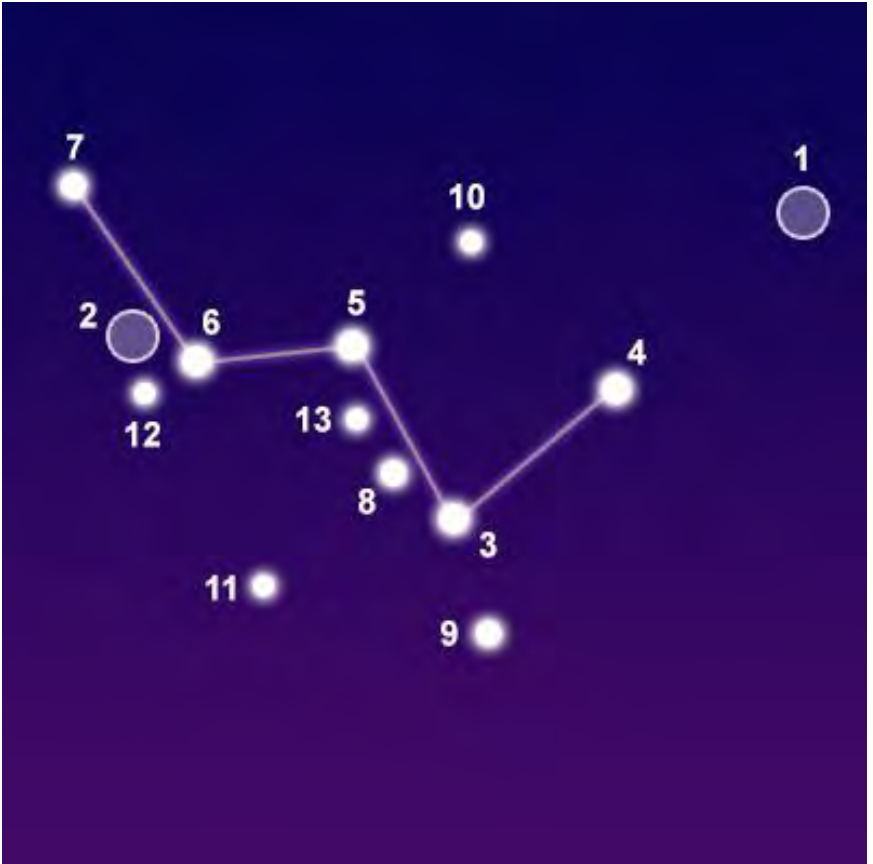
The constellations of the night sky appear to rotate around the North Star – Polaris – throughout the night as the earth rotates on its axis.



The tilt of the earth's axis changes which constellations we can see at different times of the year as the Earth is tilted to different parts of the sky.

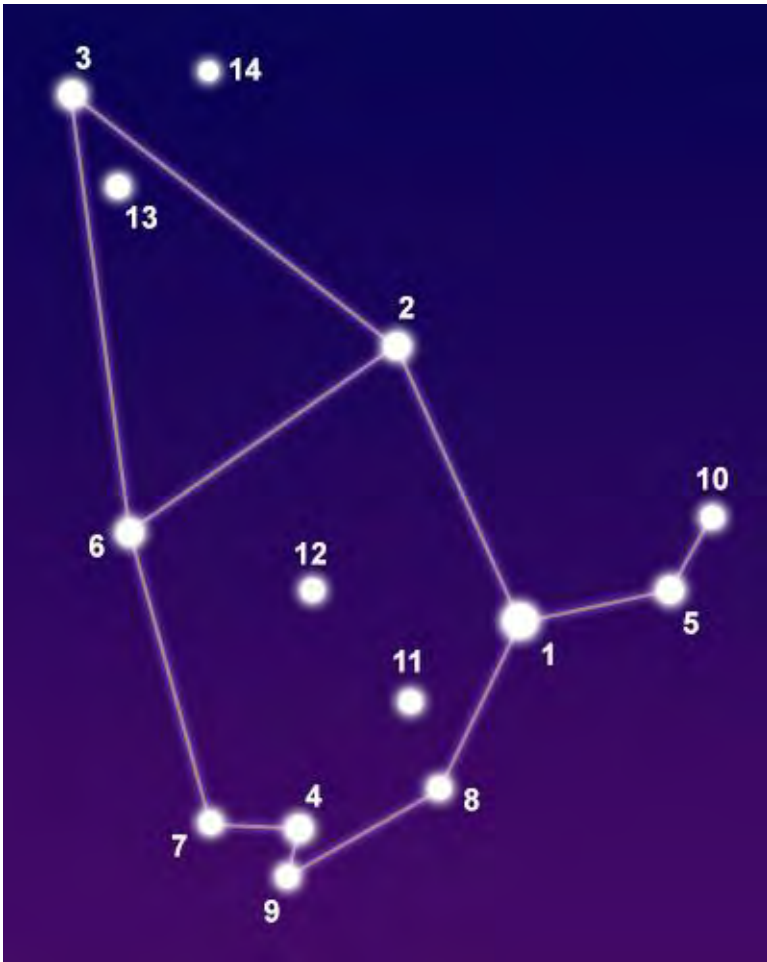
The first section of the booklet shows constellations we can see year round because they are near Polaris. We call them **circumpolar constellations**.

Cassiopeia



The constellation Cassiopeia, Queen of Ethiopia, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long.

Cepheus



The constellation Cepheus, the king, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long.

Draco



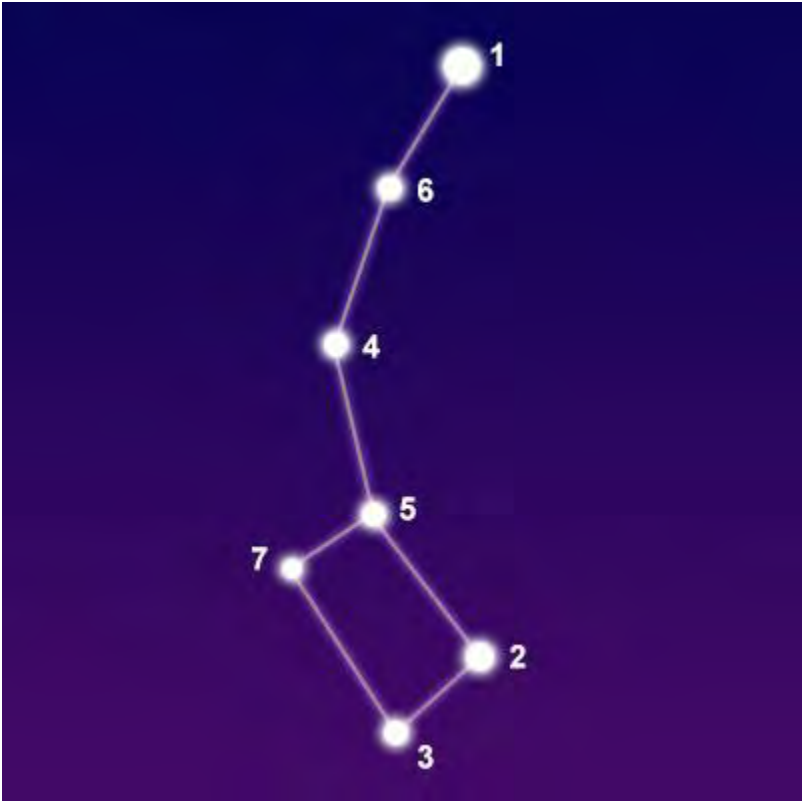
The constellation Draco, the dragon, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long.

Ursa Major



The constellation Ursa Major, the great bear, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long. The Big Dipper is part of Ursa Major.

Ursa Minor



The constellation Ursa Minor, the little bear, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long. Polaris, the North Star, is part of Ursa Minor.

Camelopardalis



The constellation Camelopardalis, the giraffe, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long.

WINTER

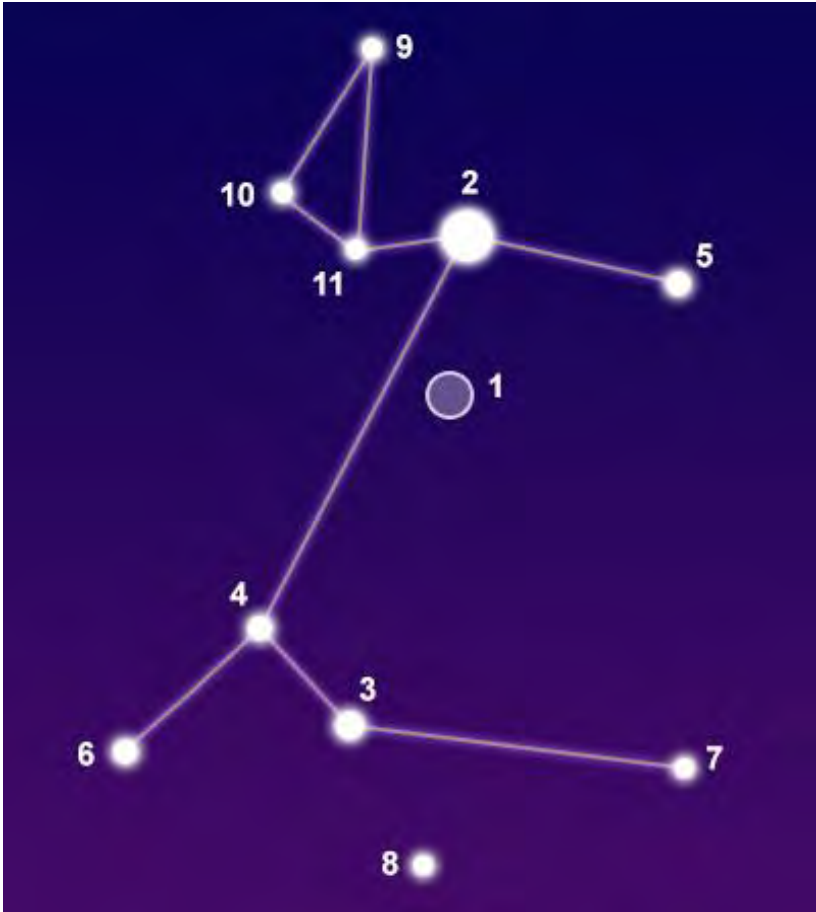
The rest of the constellations depicted in this booklet can only be seen in the winter season in Alaska as the Earth is tilted toward them in the sky.



NPS Photo / Jacob W Frank

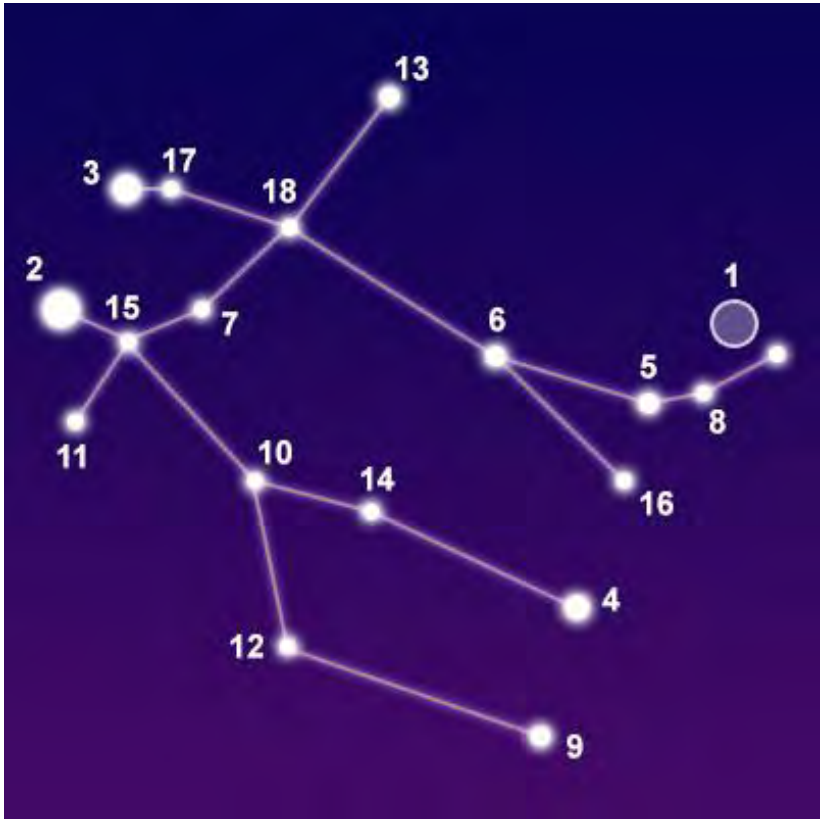
This booklet is just a sample of the constellations you can see in the winter. A list of other seasonal constellations can be found at the end of the booklet.

Canis Major



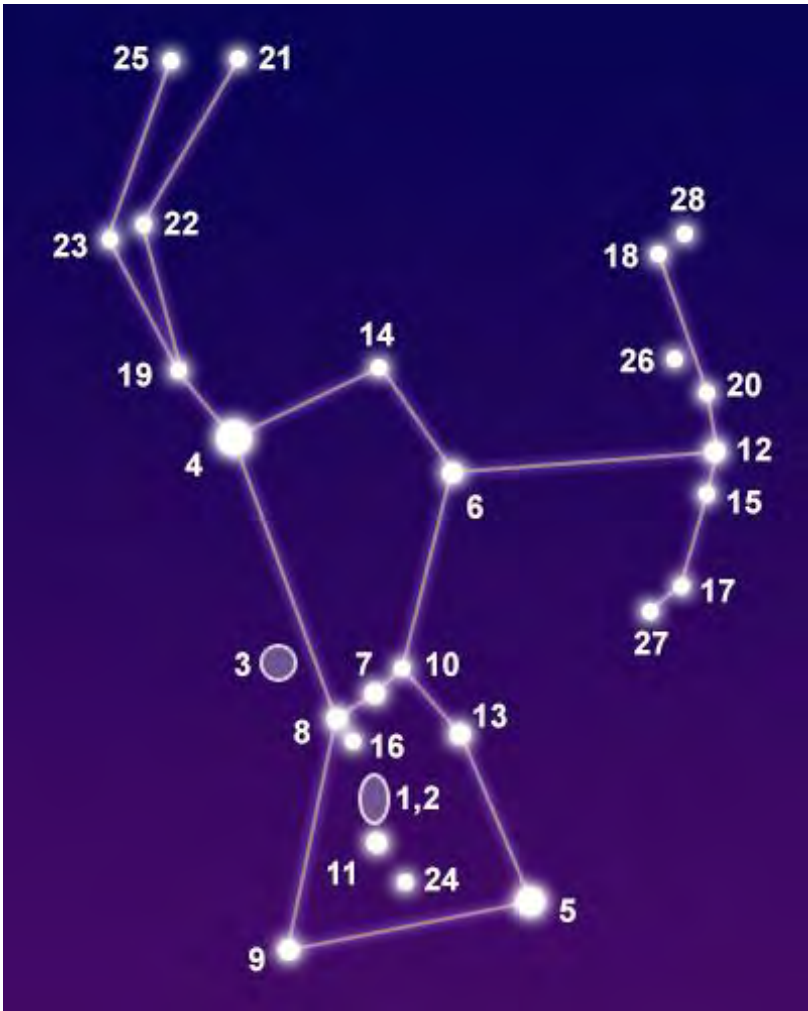
The constellation Canis Major, the great dog, is visible in the northern hemisphere from December to March.

Gemini



The constellation Gemini, the twins, is visible in the northern hemisphere from November through April.

Orion



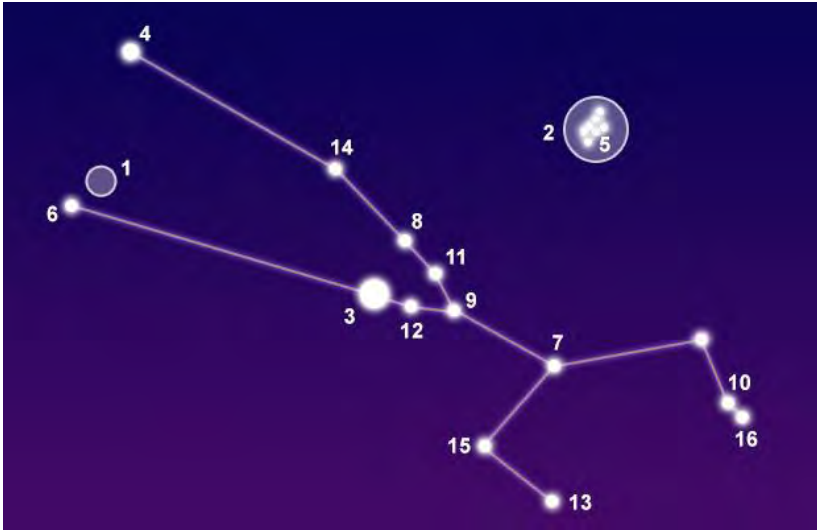
The constellation Orion, the great hunter, is visible from October through March in both hemispheres.

Perseus



The constellation Perseus, the hero, can be seen in late summer and autumn in the northern hemisphere.

Taurus



The constellation Taurus, the bull, can be seen during the winter and the early spring in the northern hemisphere. It is located next to the Pleiades – a star cluster.

Alaskan Winter Constellations:

- Canis Major
- Gemini
- Orion
- Perseus
- Taurus
- Eridanus

Alaskan Summer Constellations:

- Pegasus
- Ophiuchus
- Hercules
- Leo
- Virgo
- Serpens

Alaskan Spring Constellations:

- Bootes
- Auriga
- Andromeda
- Cygnus
- Aries
- Hydra

Alaskan Autumn Constellations:

- Lyra
- Aquarius
- Capricornus
- Cetus
- Aquila
- Triangulum

Learn more about constellations, their stars and the history of their names:

www.seasky.org/constellations/constellations.html

**For more hands-on outer space
activities, go to**

bit.ly/akspacescience

Constellation photos from www.seasky.org

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