

Circumpolar Stars and Circumpolar Constellations

Circumpolar stars are continually visible above the horizon. In other words they never set.

They appear to move in a circular manner during the night. However, it is not the stars that are moving, it is the rotation of the earth that makes them seem to move.

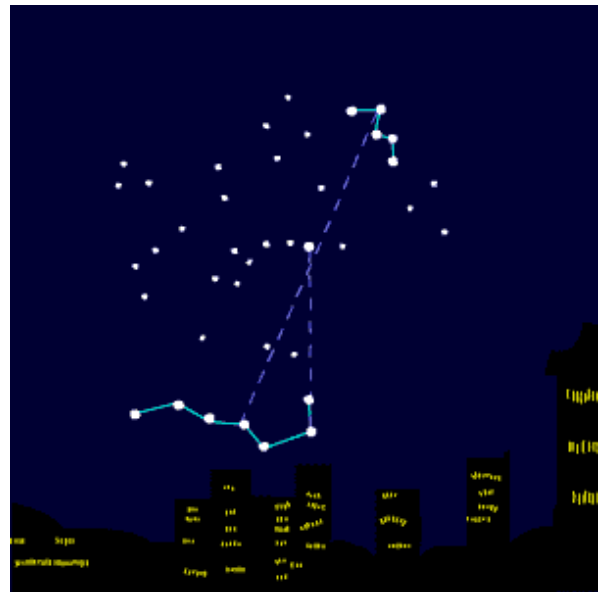
They are found above the terrestrial poles meaning either the North Pole or the South Pole.

In the northern hemisphere directly above the North Pole is Polaris or the North Star. The North Pole always stays in the same spot because the North Pole points directly at it as the earth rotates.

Time-lapse photo of the
Circumpolar stars circling Polaris

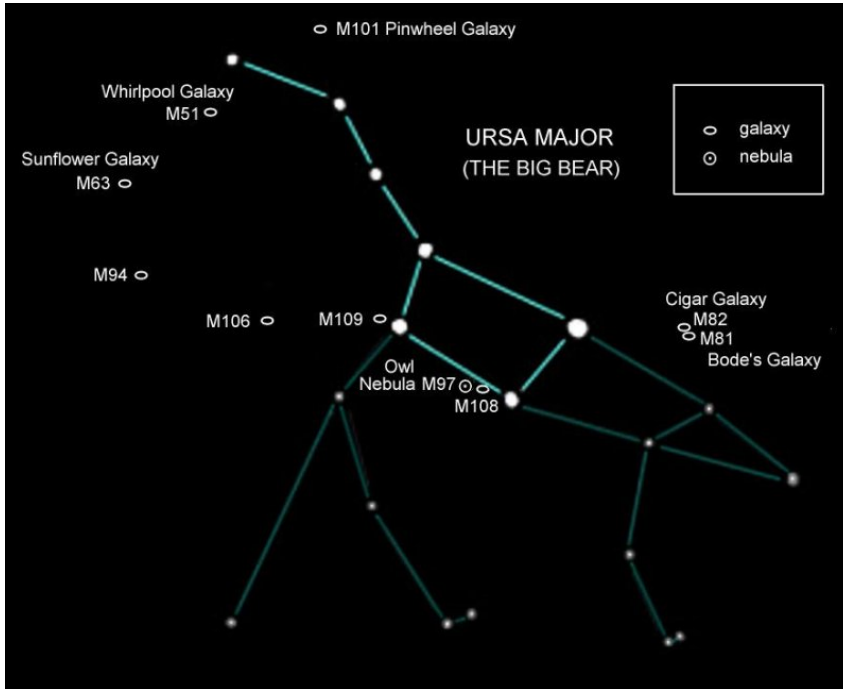


Circumpolar Stars
around Polaris

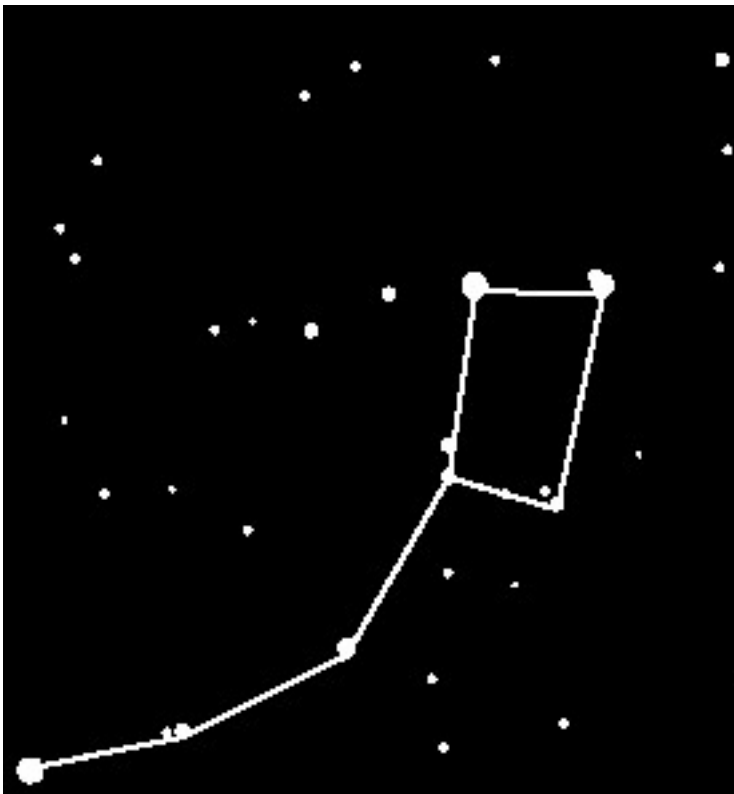


Below are major constellations (and other stars) that circle around the North Star. The major constellations are Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Cassiopeia, Cepheus, and Draco.

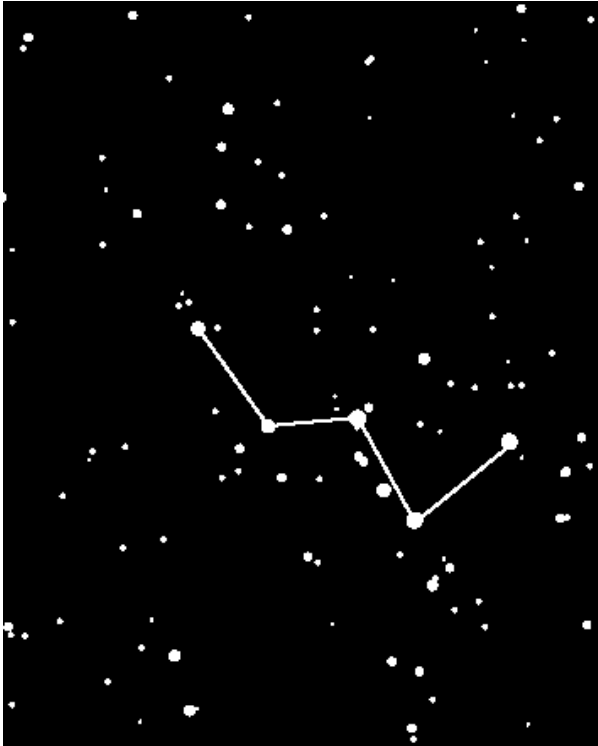
Ursa Major



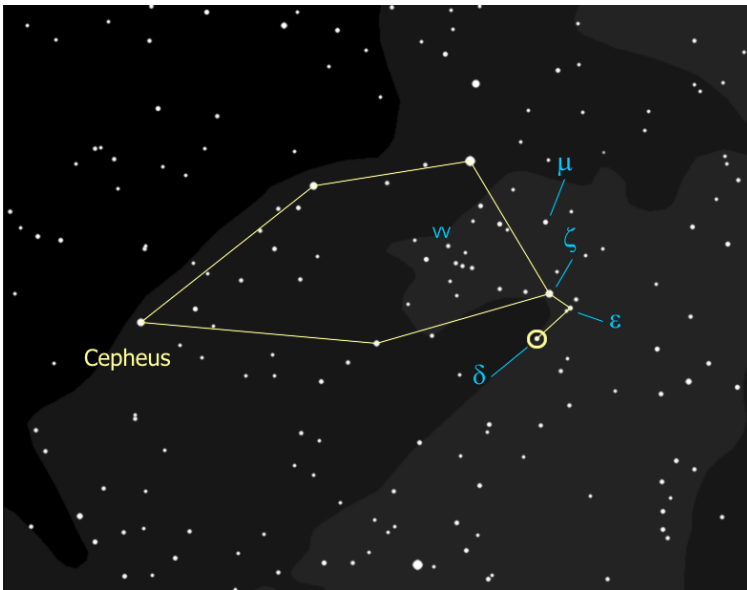
Ursa Minor



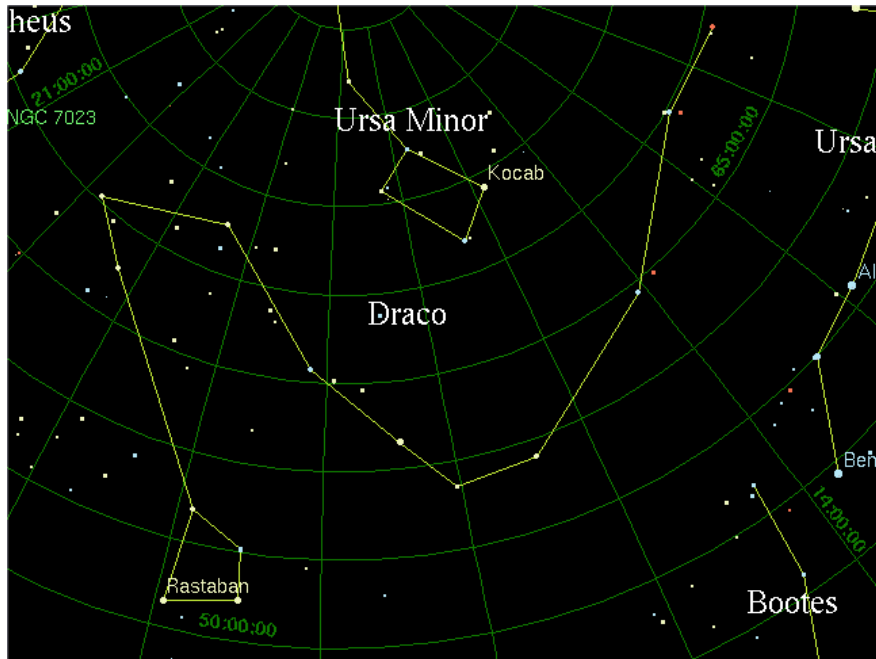
Cassiopeia



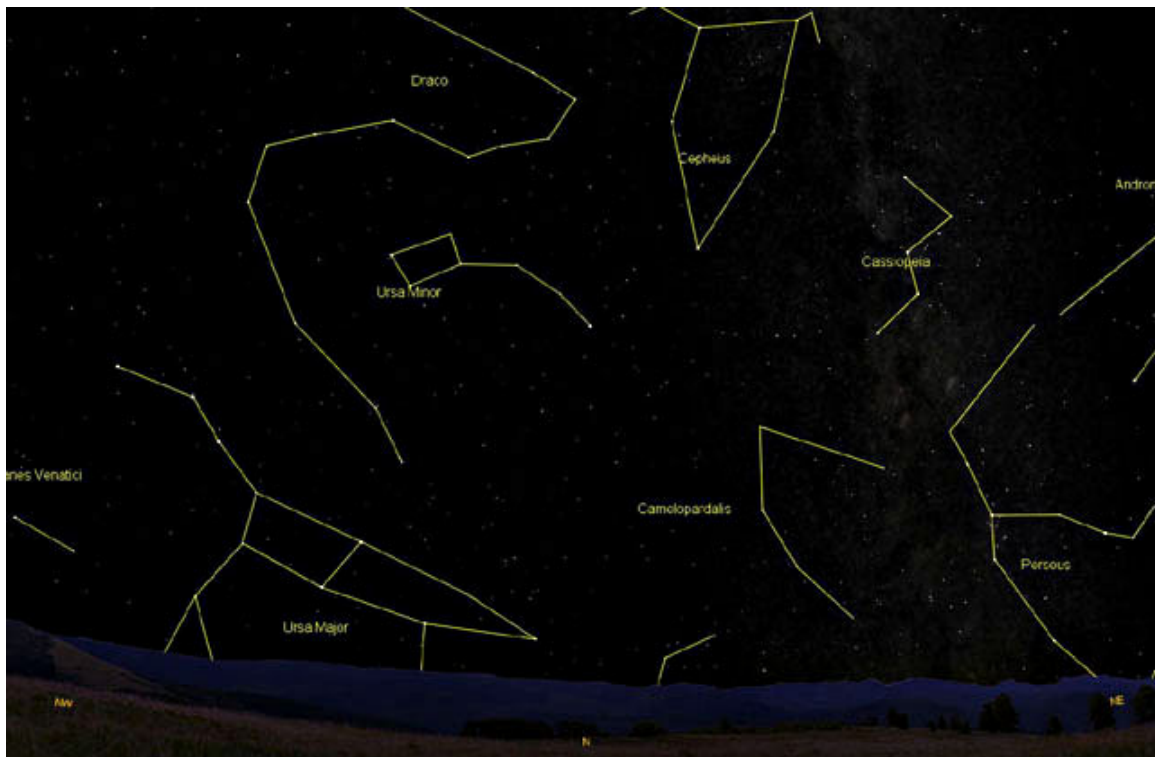
Cepheus



Draco



The Circumpolar Constellations Together Looking North



Bigger Picture of the Northern Stars

