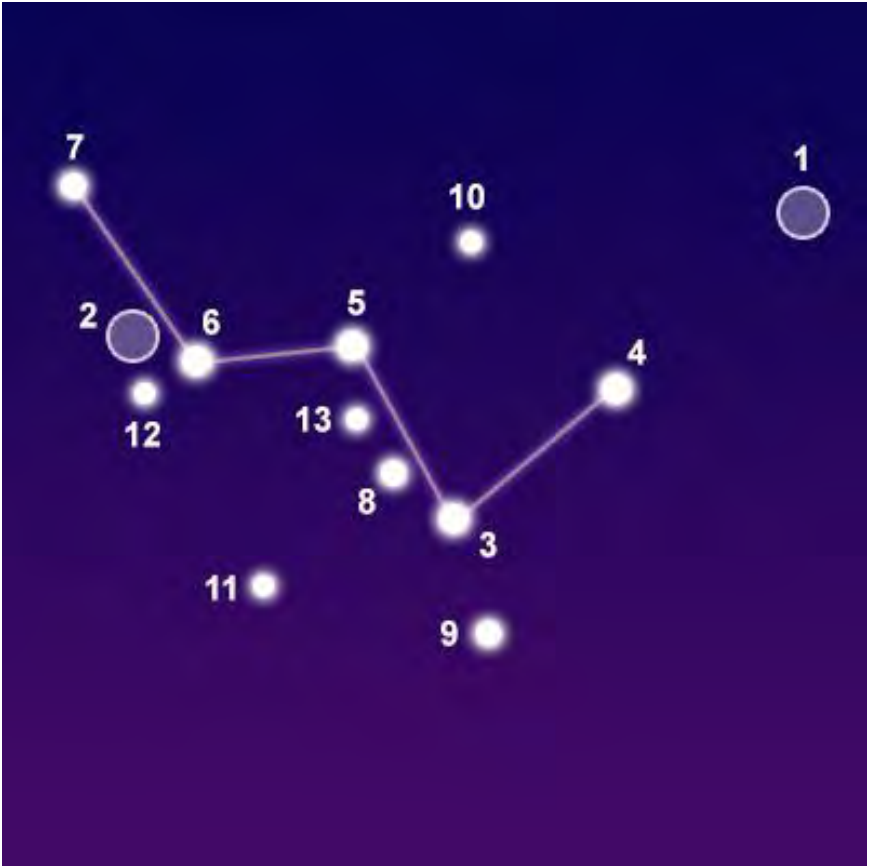




The constellations of the night sky appear to rotate around the North Star – Polaris – throughout the night as the earth rotates on its axis.

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 .



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

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

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

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.

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.

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



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.

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

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

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

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

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.



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Constellation photos from [www.seasky.org](http://www.seasky.org)

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA



This project was funded under NASA cooperative agreement NNX16AL65A. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.