



Find the North Star

- The Celestial Sphere
- Circumpolar Constellations
- How to find the North Star

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Alaska's Flag

- Alaska's flag was designed in 1926 by a 13-year-old Native American boy, Bennie Benson.



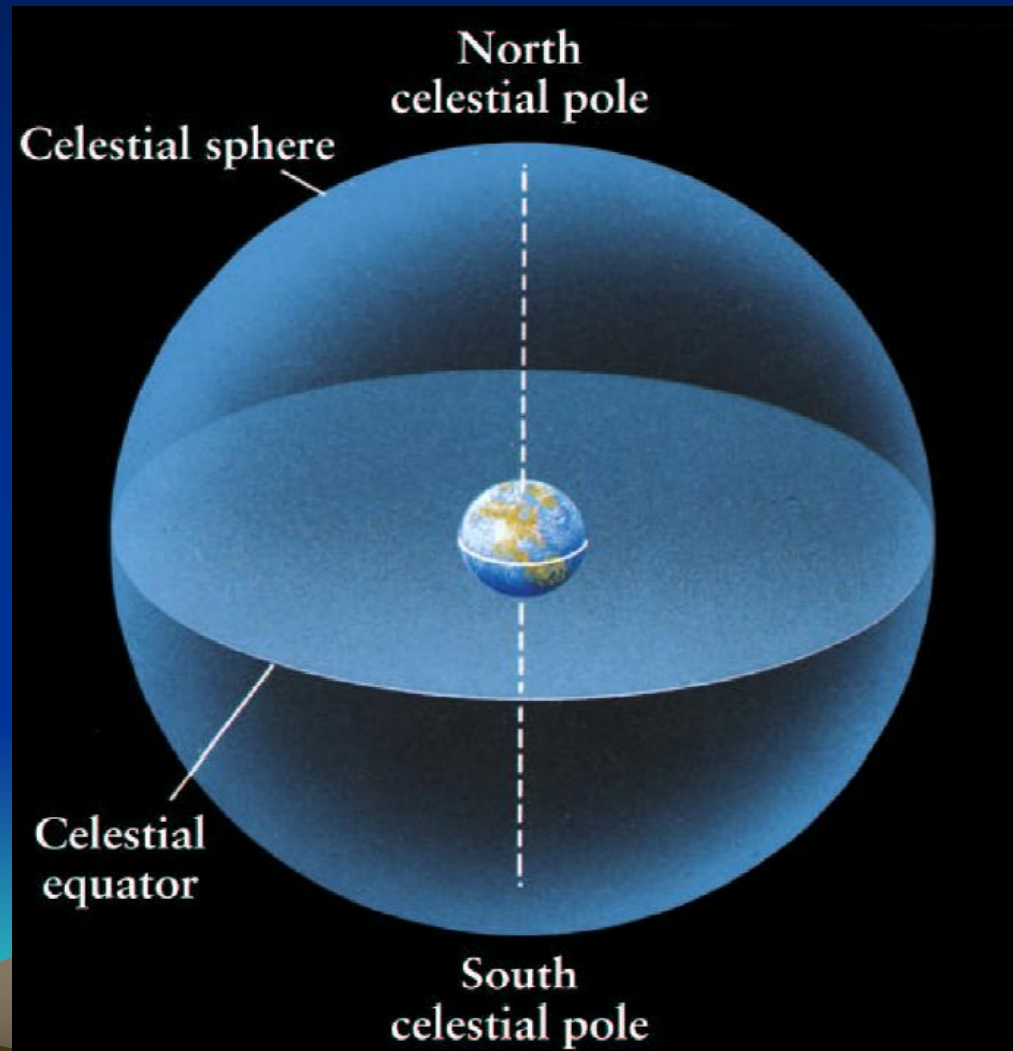
- Emblazoned on the flag are eight gold stars: seven from the constellation Ursa Major, or the Big Dipper. The eighth being the North Star, representing the northern most state.

The Celestial Sphere

- The Stars are too far away to perceive their distance.
- They appear fixed to a dome that represents the night sky, called the Celestial Sphere.
- The night sky rotates above our heads from East to West.

Polaris and the North Pole

- The North celestial pole is near the star Polaris

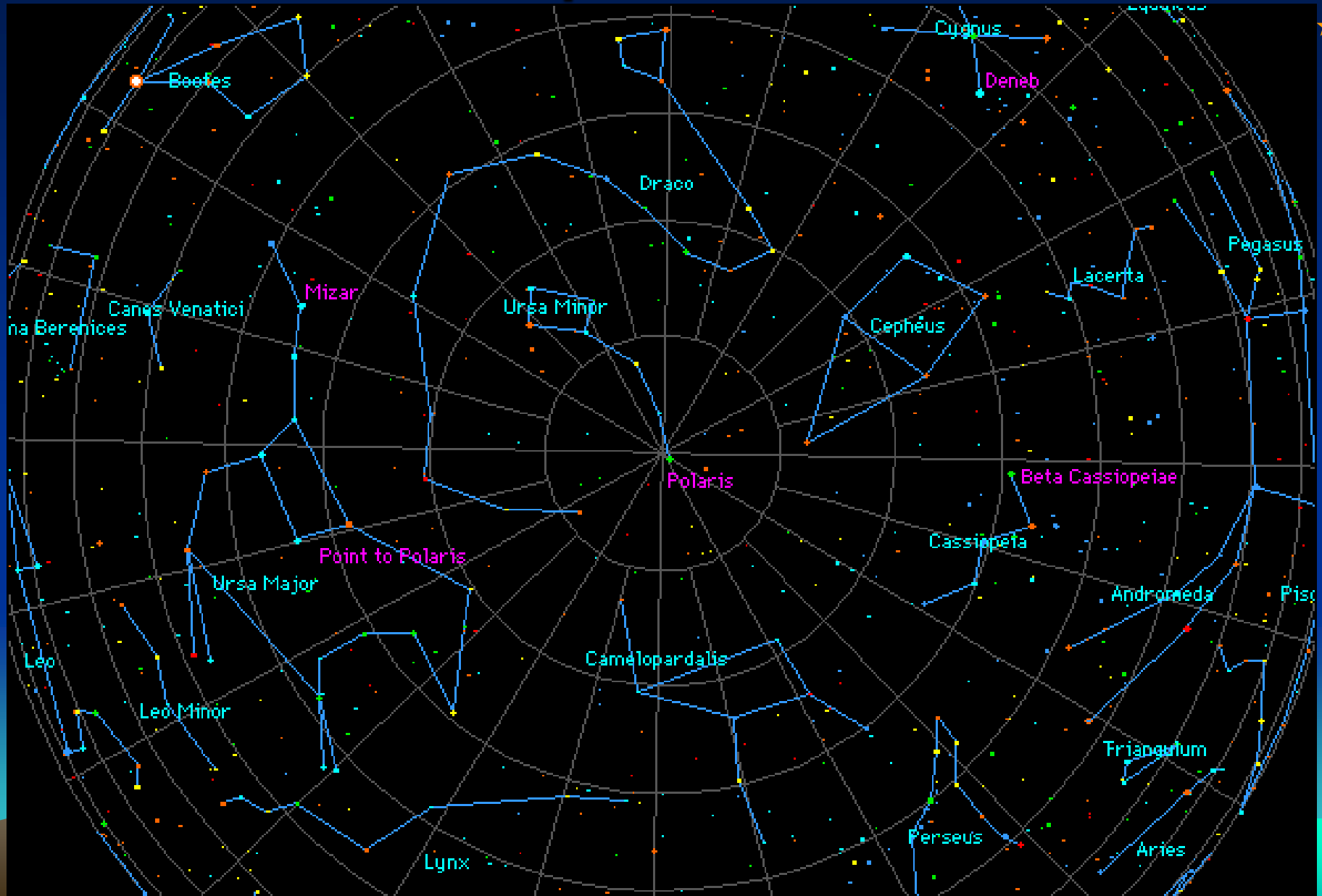


Circumpolar Constellations

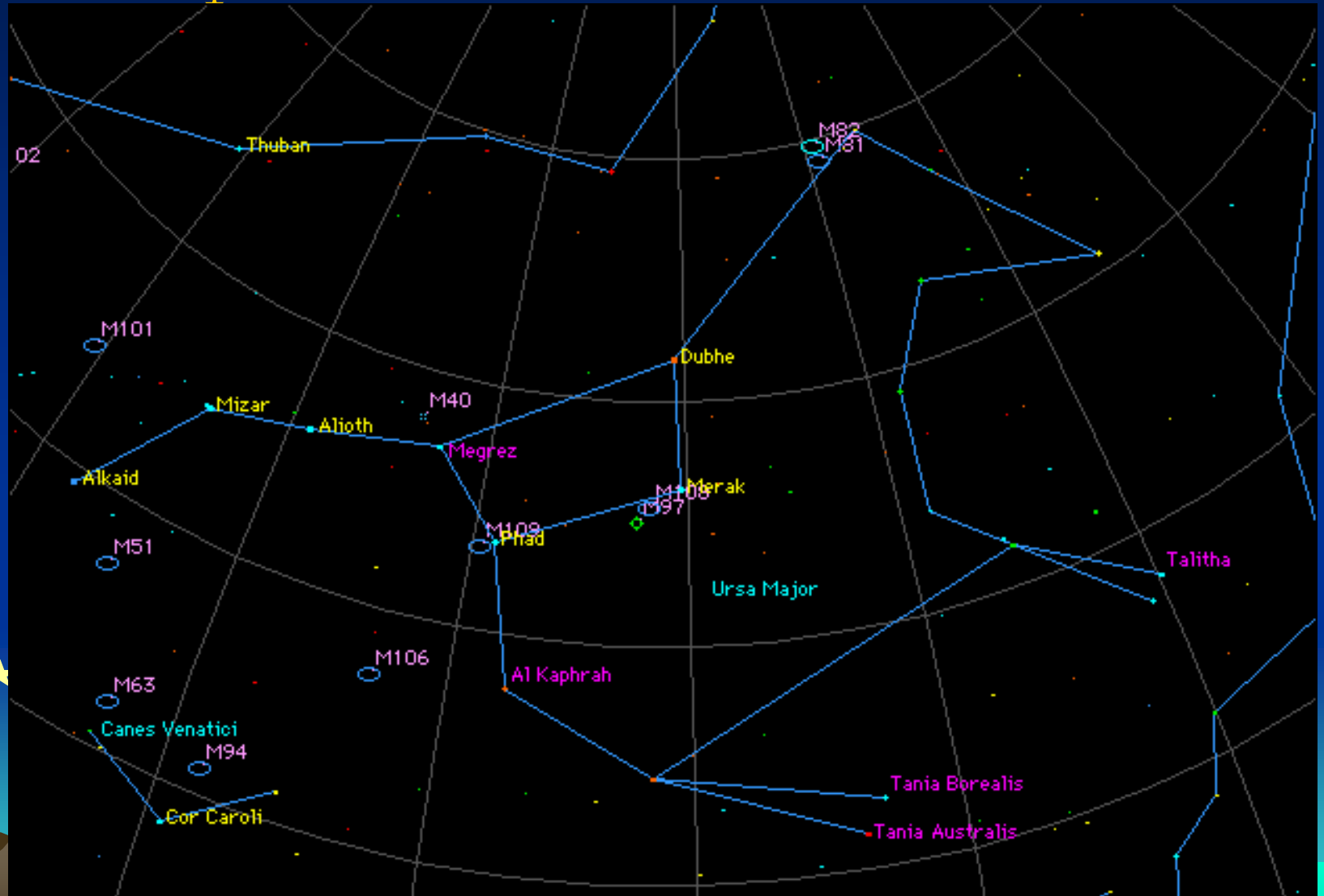
- Circumpolar Constellations circle around the Pole.



The Circumpolar Constellations



Big Dipper



Big Dipper

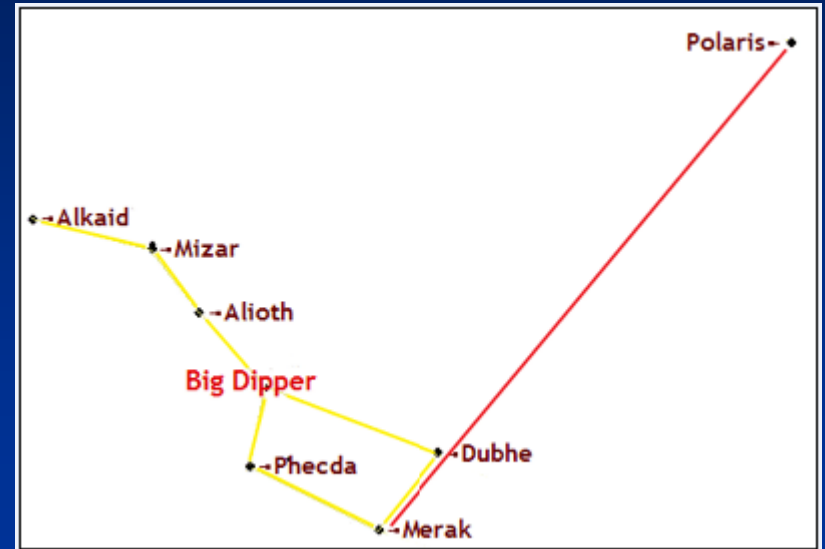


Follow the Drinking Gourd

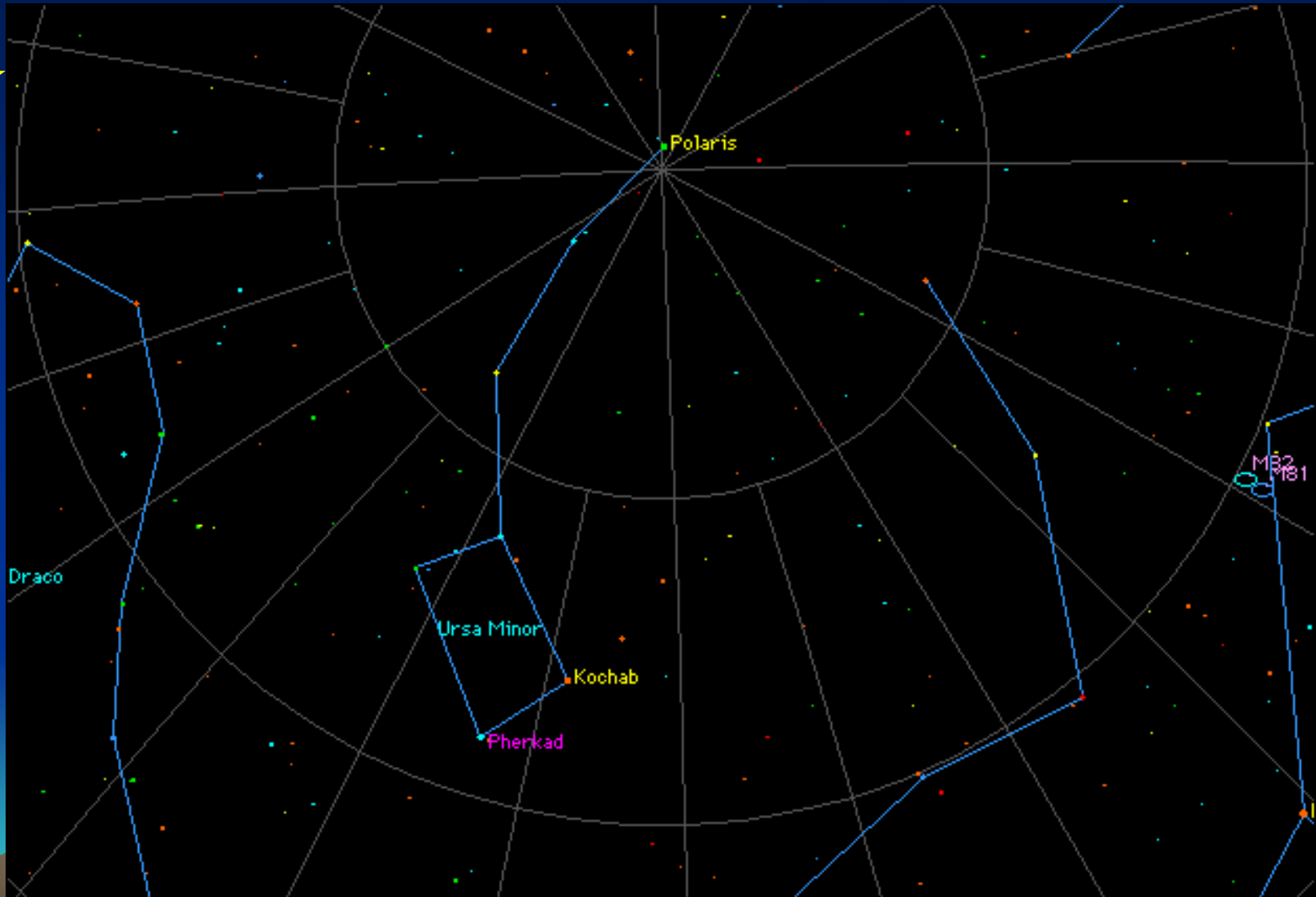
- In the United States, during the nineteenth century, The Big Dipper, also known as the Drinking Gourd was used as a guidepost by the slaves to find their way North.
- The lyrics of folk song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" served as guide to help them find their way north and its chorus reminded them to always follow the Drinking Gourd, or Big Dipper.

Find the North Star

- Extend five times the distance between the last two stars of the Big Dipper and you will point toward the North Star.



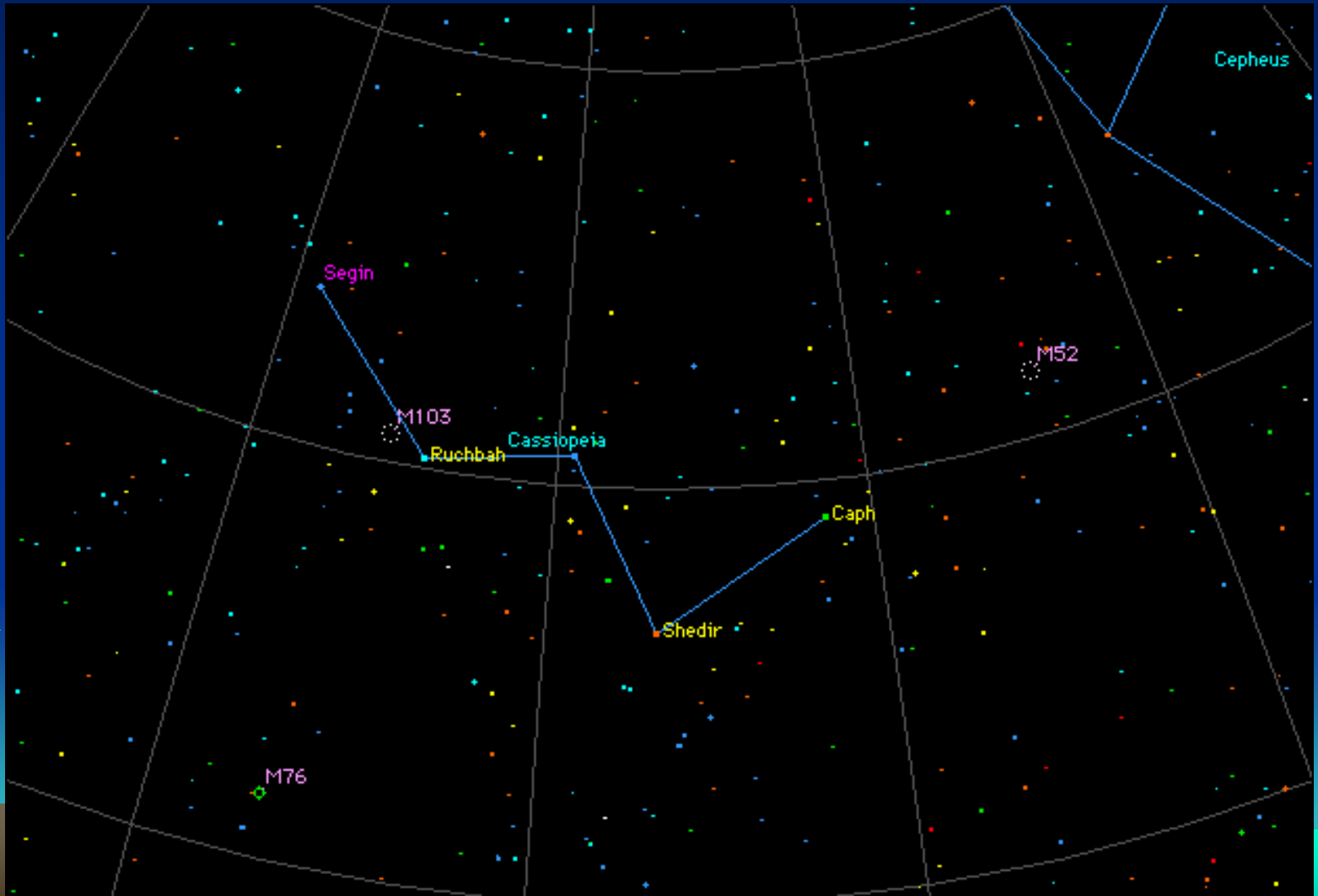
Little Dipper



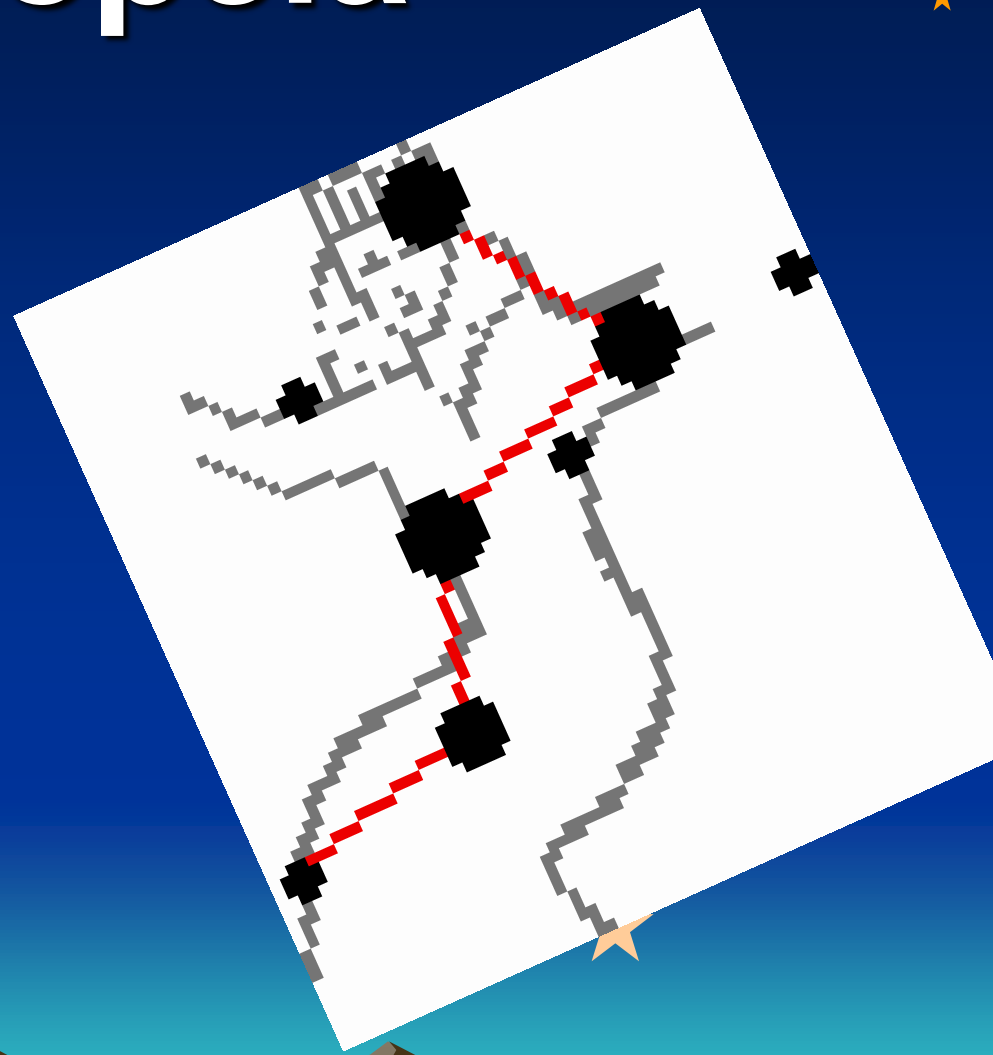
Little Dipper



Cassiopeia



Casiopeia



Tonight's Sky

