

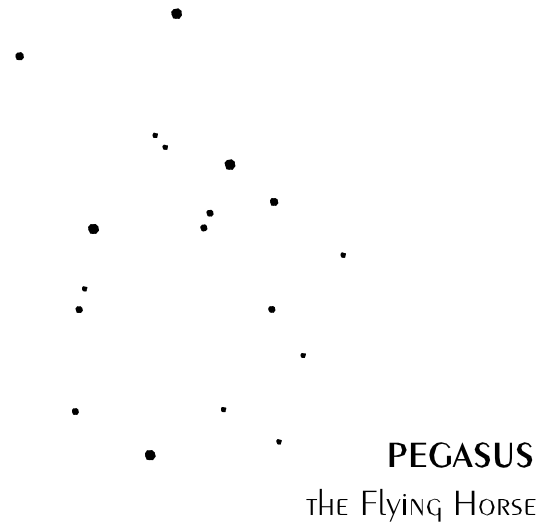
INVENT YOUR OWN CONSTELLATION

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE NIGHT SKY, WHAT DO YOU SEE? TWINKLING POINTS OF LIGHT? FLAMING BALLS OF GAS? OR CAN YOU STRETCH YOUR IMAGINATION A LITTLE AND SEE PICTURES IN THE STARS?

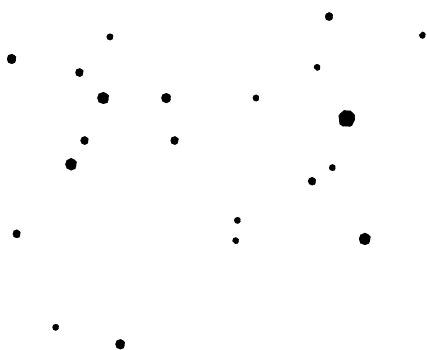
LONG AGO, PEOPLE MADE UP PICTURES TO GO WITH THE STARS. IT TOOK A LOT OF IMAGINATION, BECAUSE MOST OF THE STAR GROUPS DON'T LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE WHAT THE PEOPLE PICTURED, BUT IT GAVE THEM A WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF THE STARS. THEY CALLED THESE PICTURES **CONSTELLATIONS**. TONIGHT YOU WILL MAKE UP YOUR OWN CONSTELLATION AND LEARN TO RECOGNIZE IT SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT FOR YEARS TO COME.

FIRST, PRACTICE ON THESE STAR GROUPS. DRAW IN LINES IF YOU'D LIKE. CAN YOU SEE THE SAME PICTURES THAT THE PEOPLE OF LONG AGO SAW?

YOU DO NOT NEED
TO USE ALL THE STARS
IN YOUR PICTURES.



CANIS MAJOR
THE BIG DOG



WHAT ARE THE PICTURES SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE? THERE IS NO ONE CORRECT ANSWER. EVEN EXPERTS DRAW THEM DIFFERENTLY. SOME SAY THE GREAT BEAR FACES ONE WAY, SOME SAY THE OTHER.

THE ONLY REAL ANSWER IS ONE THAT HELPS YOU REMEMBER HOW TO FIND THE CONSTELLATION.

TONIGHT, GO OUTSIDE AND TRY TO INVENT A CONSTELLATION USING THE **REAL** STARS.

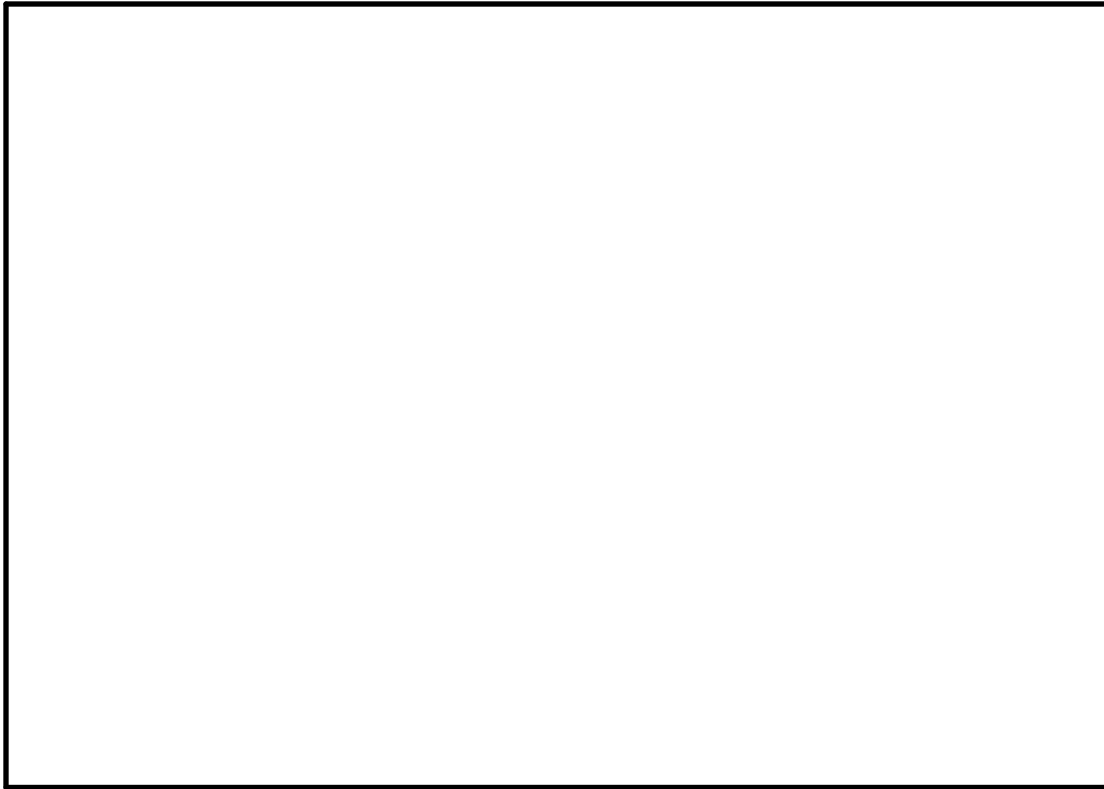
YOU WILL FIND SOME "ANSWERS" TO THIS PAGE, OR AT LEAST SUGGESTIONS, AT THE END OF ASTRONOMY.

WHAT YOU NEED: A CLEAR DARK NIGHT, YOUR EYES AND YOUR IMAGINATION.

I RECOMMEND DOING THIS ACTIVITY WITH A FRIEND, BROTHER OR SISTER; IT MAKES IT MORE FUN.

WHAT TO DO: Go outside and look carefully at the sky. Use the stars you see to invent your own constellation. Draw in the stars below and sketch your picture around them.

CAN YOU THINK OF AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT YOUR CONSTELLATION?

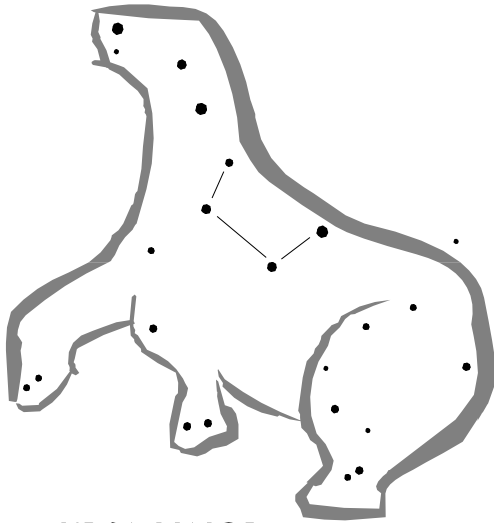


CONSTELLATION NAME: _____

JOT DOWN NOTES THAT WILL MAKE YOUR CONSTELLATION EASIER TO FIND ON FUTURE NIGHTS:

CHECK ON YOUR CONSTELLATION ONCE IN A WHILE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IS IT ALWAYS IN THE SAME PLACE IN THE SKY?

HINTS ON SEEING CONSTELLATIONS



URSA MAJOR

THE BIG DIPPER FORMS
A SADDLE ON THE BEAR.



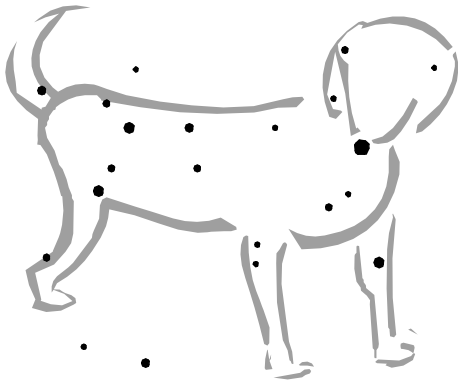
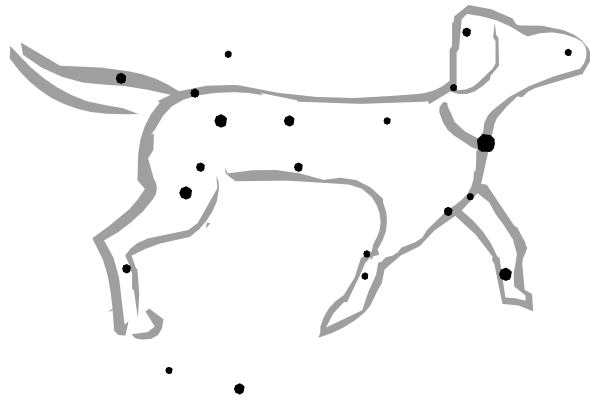
PEGASUS

THE GREAT SQUARE OF
PEGASUS FORMS THE WING

CANIS MAJOR

THE BIG DOG

AS WITH MOST CONSTELLATIONS, THERE IS MORE
THAN ONE WAY TO LOOK AT CANIS MAJOR.



THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE SKY IS **SIRIUS**,
THE DOG STAR. IS SIRIUS THE DOG'S NOSE?
OR THE DOG'S COLLAR?

SAME STARS, DIFFERENT PICTURE!