



Star signs and horoscopes

Looking at constellations

time

70 minutes

learning outcomes

To:

- recognise the star signs in horoscopes
- know that the star signs are part of the zodiac
- know that the stars in a star sign are not all the same distance from the Earth

end product

- a project on one of the signs of the zodiac

materials needed

- horoscopes from various weekly magazines
- coloured A4 paper
- computer with internet
- books about star signs

Preparation

For the activity **Star signs** you will need to cut out some horoscopes from a range of weekly magazines. Paste the horoscopes for the same star sign together on a sheet of paper. Write the name of the star sign at the top of the sheet. Make several copies of each sheet. Draw a table with 12 columns on the board. Write the names of the signs of the zodiac at the top of the columns.

For the activity **My star sign**, copy the worksheet on coloured paper, so the children can include it in their project work. Get some books from the library with information about star signs and display them at the front of the class.

Tip. Use the pictures of the night sky in the four seasons from the Appendix.



Star signs 10 min.

Invite the children to sit in a circle with you. Ask the children if they know what a star sign is. Ask when their birthdays are. What are their star signs? Write the children's names in the column matching their star sign. Explain that the star signs in the horoscopes are part of what is called the zodiac. The zodiac is the part of the sky in which the Sun appears to move across the heavens (of course it is actually the Earth that moves). The zodiac is divided into 12 equal parts, each of which has its own star sign. Then explain that long ago, people thought there was a special meaning behind the movements and positions of the stars and planets.

We call this astrology. Astrologists think that the position of the Sun, Moon, and planets when you were born can affect your character.

Hand out the sheets with the horoscopes. Discuss together whether the horoscopes apply to the children. Compare any differences and similarities between the horoscopes. Come to the conclusion that the horoscopes only make very general predictions. Explain that astrology is not a science and has never been scientifically proven to be true. The children complete Task 1.



The children investigate what is known about their star sign.



My star sign 30 min.

Organise the children into pairs with the same star sign. If an uneven number of children have the same star sign you can make groups of three. Explain that they are going to work on a project about their star signs and explain that they can use the books about star signs in the class, and also look for information on the internet. For example, they can type the name of their star sign in Google Search. Encourage the children to make an attractive front and back cover for their project work, so that it forms a book. Discuss with the children the items listed below. Then ask them to complete Task 2 on the worksheet.

- **How many stars are there in your star sign?** The children find out what their star sign looks like and draw it on the worksheet.
- **How did your star sign get its name?** The children use the books in the classroom or search on internet to find out where the name of their star sign came from.
- **When can you see your star sign?** The children draw a circle around their star sign in the drawing on the worksheet.



The zodiac 20 min.

Organise the children into groups of four. Make sure that every child in each group has a different star sign. Encourage the children to tell each other what they have learned about their star sign. The children complete Task 3 on the worksheet. When they have finished, encourage the children to mention something about a different star sign. Encourage them to add to each other's information, to create as complete a picture as possible. Discuss all the star signs with the class as a whole, to ensure that the children do not pass on incorrect information. Make sure all the information gathered in the project books is discussed.





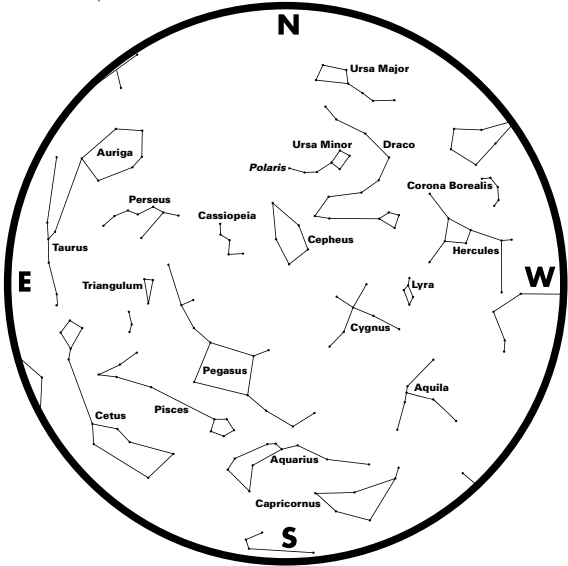
How far is far? 10 min.

Are all the stars in a star sign at an equal distance from Earth? Do all star signs look the same from everywhere on Earth? The children complete Task 4 on the worksheet. The children can use internet or books from the library for this. Come to the conclusion that the star signs look different when seen from different places on Earth. This is because the stars are not located on one line. Some stars are much further away from Earth than others.

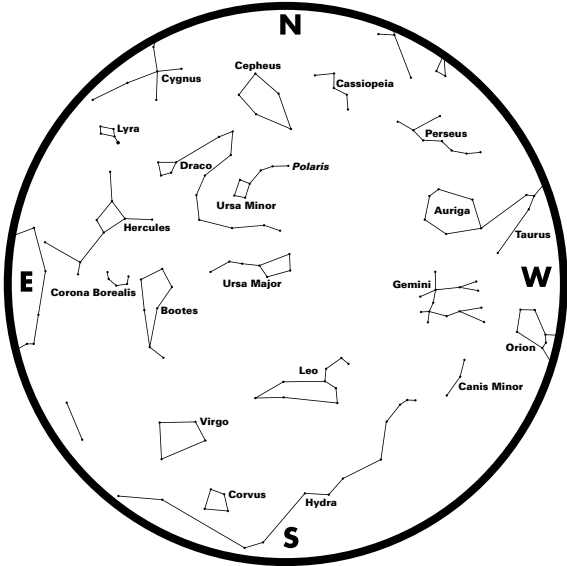


Star signs and horoscopes

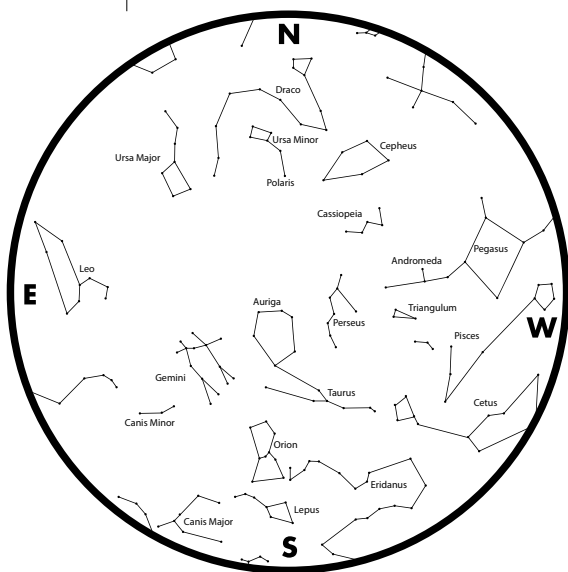
1	Star signs
a	My birthday is in
	
b	My star sign is
2	My star sign
	I am going to find out what is known about my star sign.
a	Circle the star sign you are going to investigate.



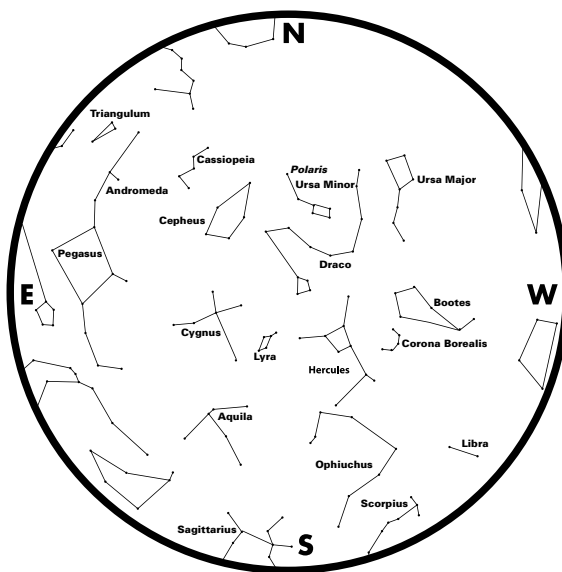
Night sky in autumn



Night sky in spring



Night sky in winter






Night sky in summer

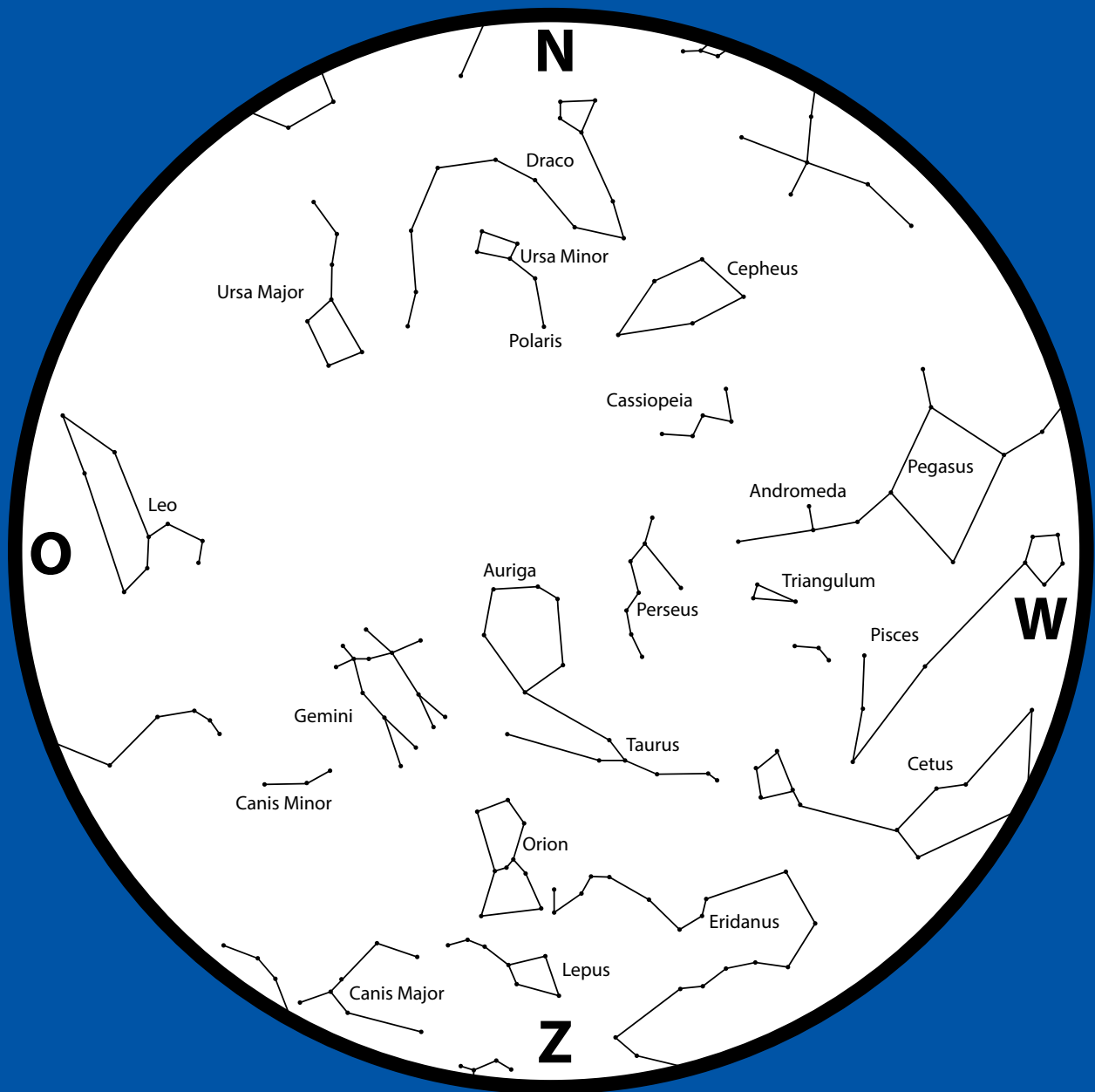
b	Does the star sign look like its name?
	yes / no
c	How did your star sign get its name?
d	In which season can you see your star sign?
	in winter / in summer
	in autumn / in spring

CIRCLE what you think

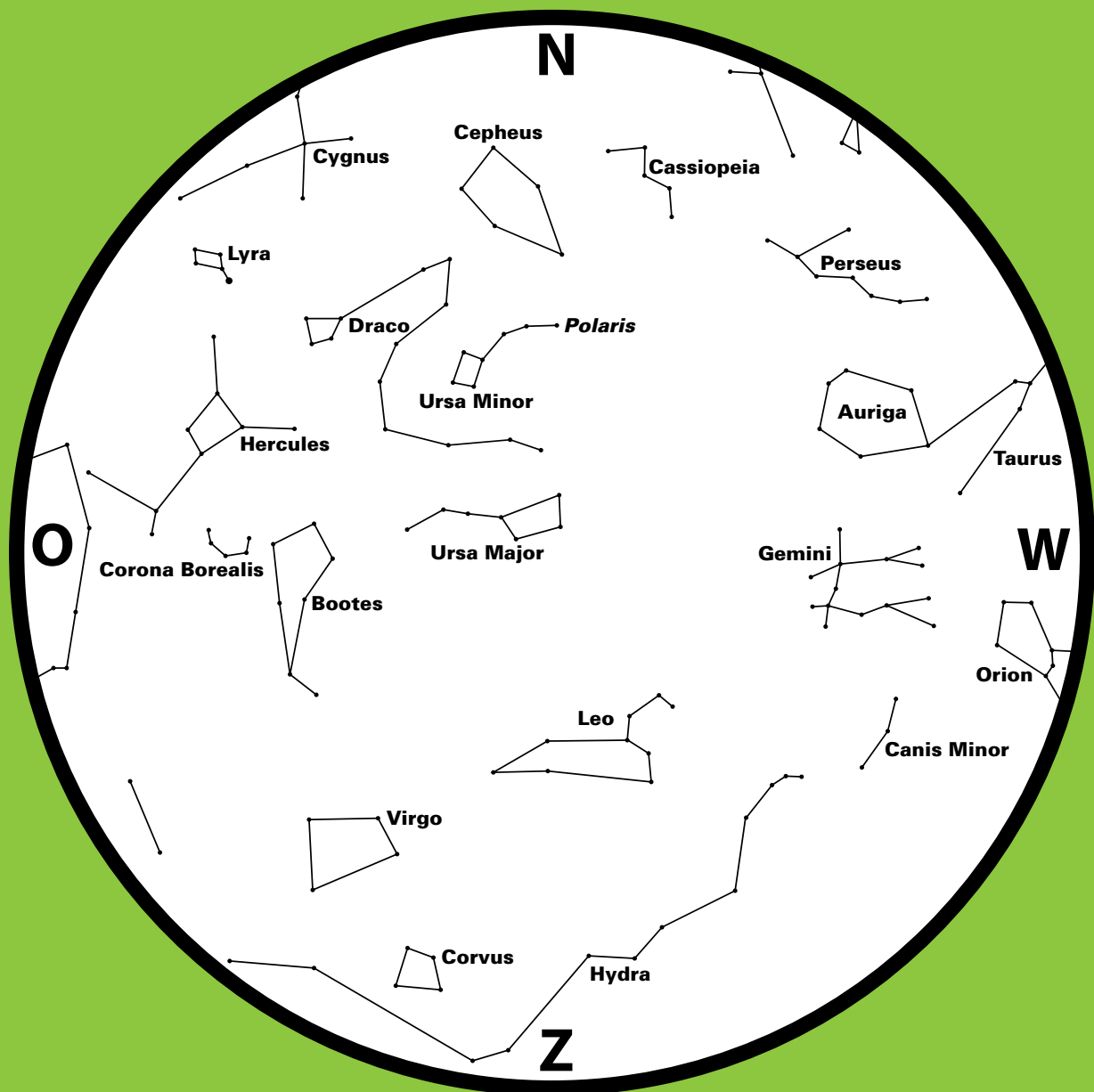
CIRCLE the correct answer

3	The zodiac
a	I heard lots of information about the following three star signs:
	star sign:
	star sign:
	star sign:
b	Describe the most important features of these star signs here:
4	How far is far?
	Use reference books or the internet to answer the following questions:
a	Does your star sign look the same from everywhere on Earth?
	yes / no
b	Why not?

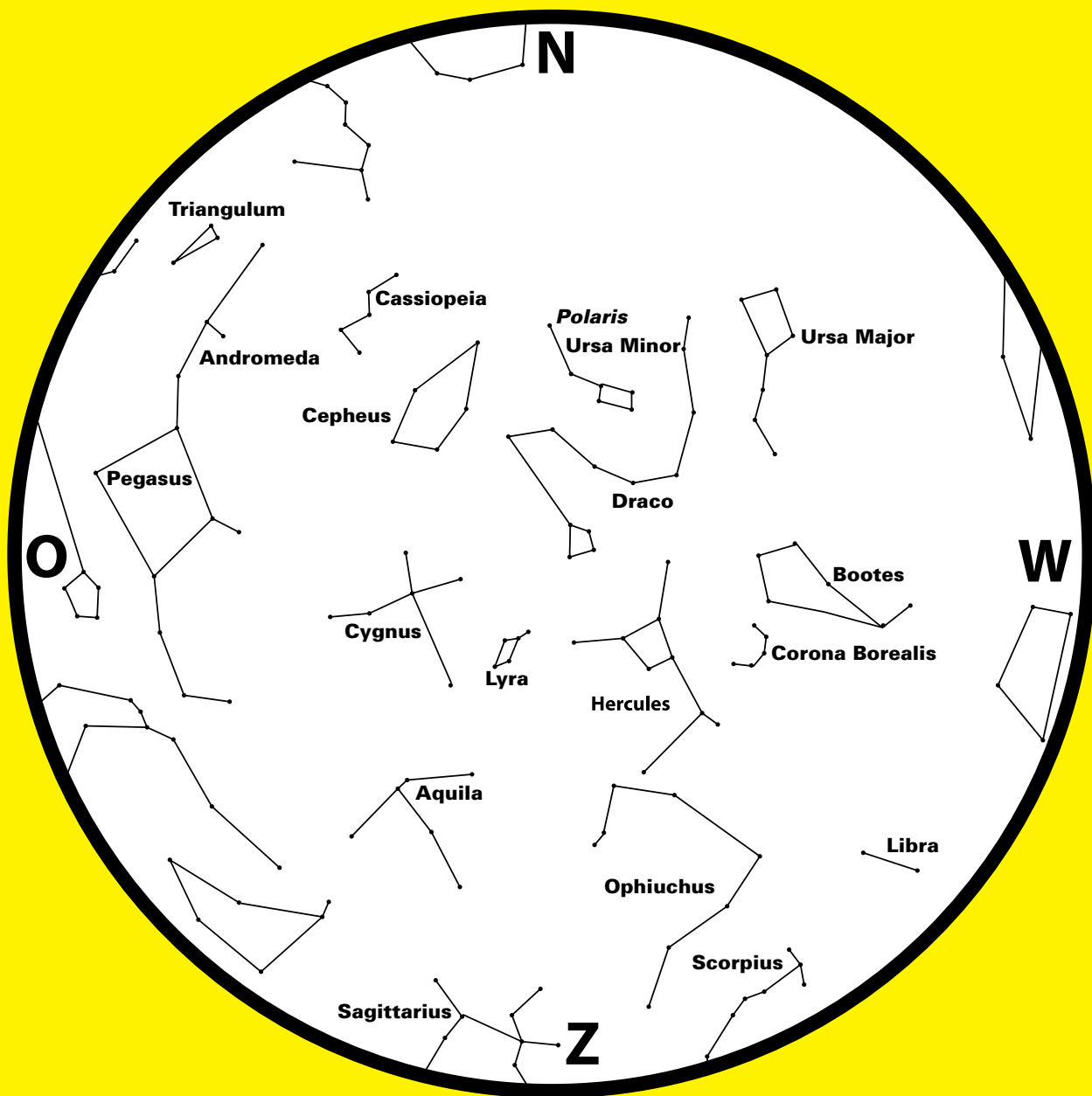
 CIRCLE the correct answer



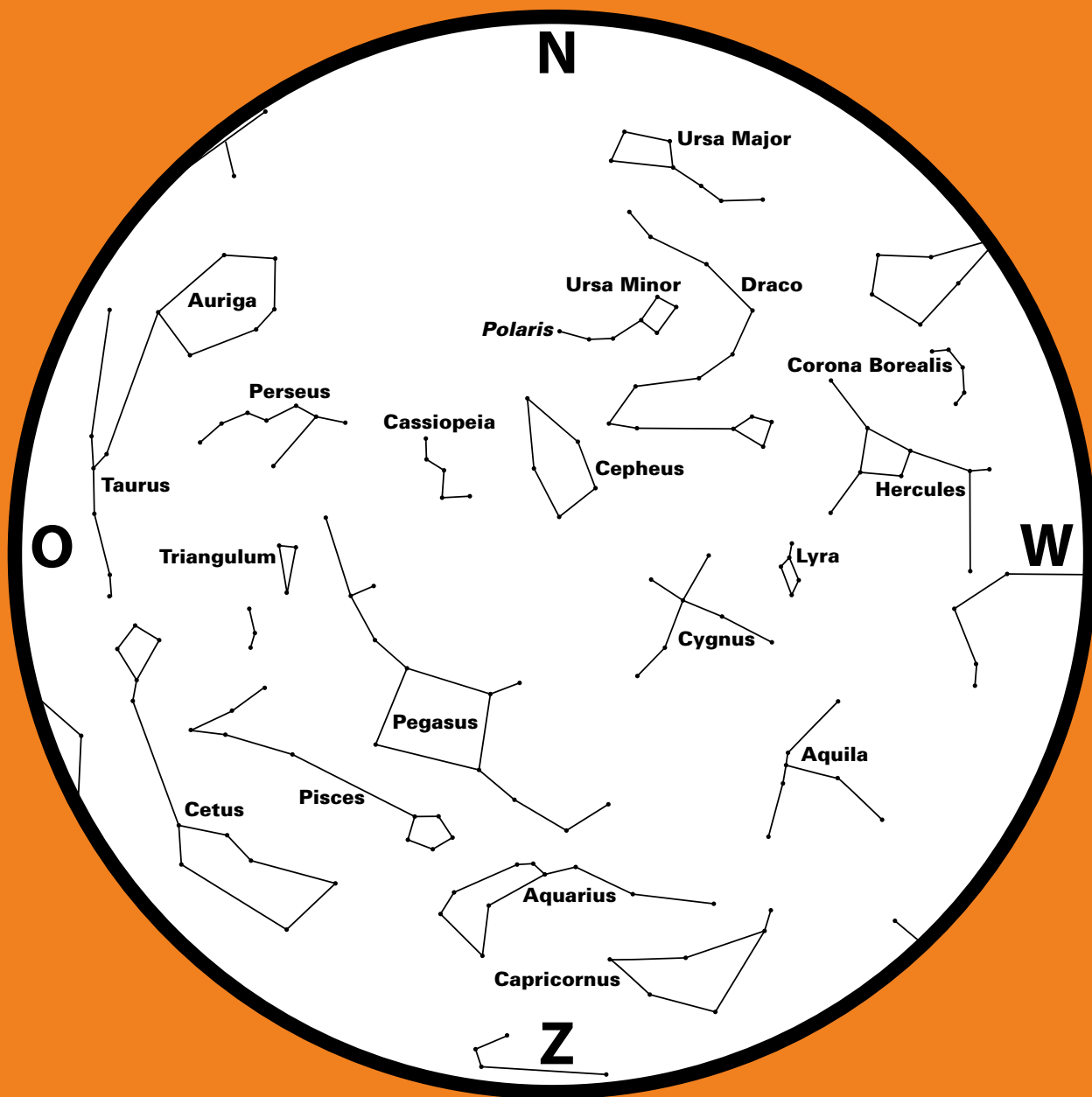
Night sky in winter



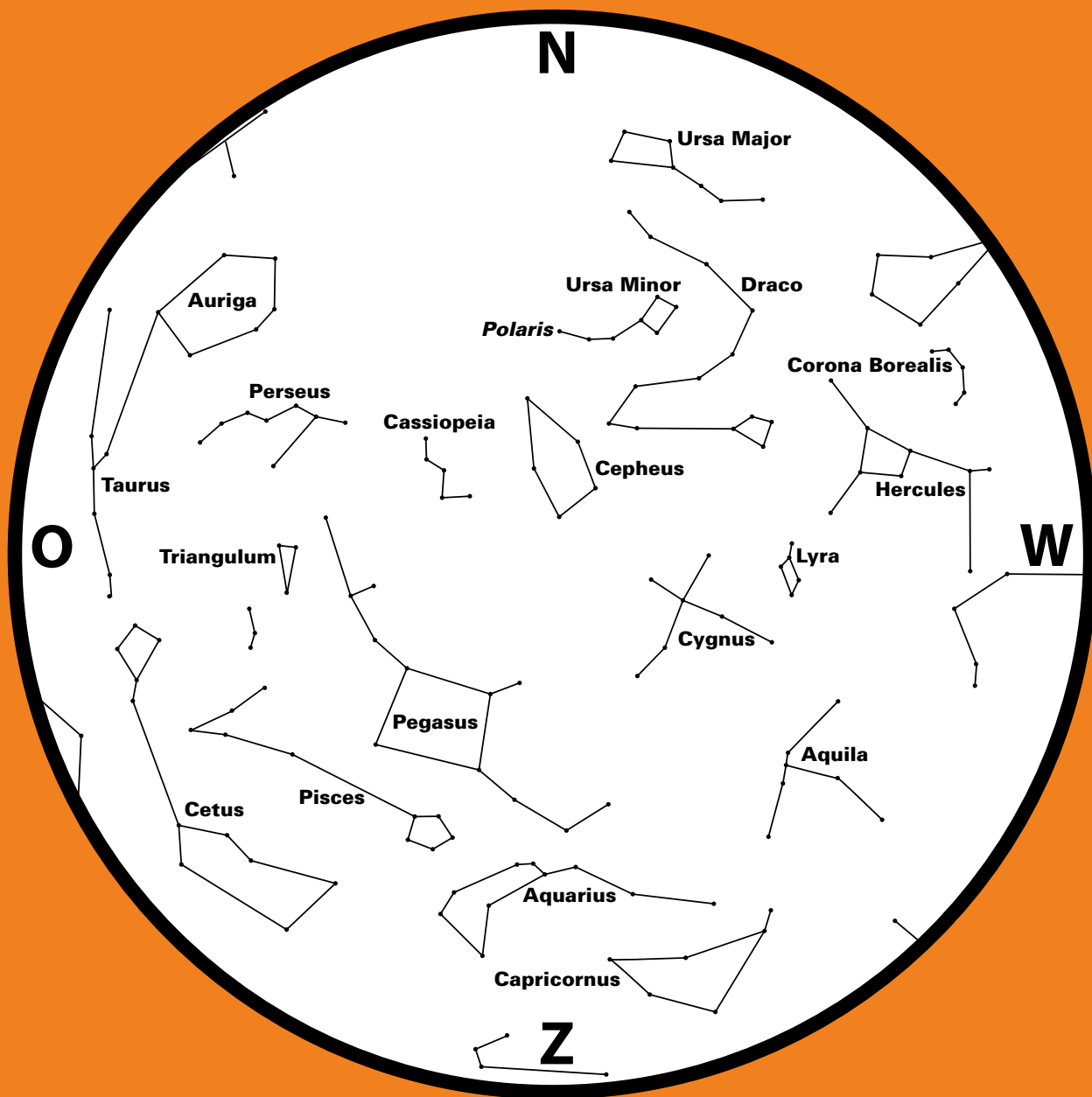
Night sky in spring



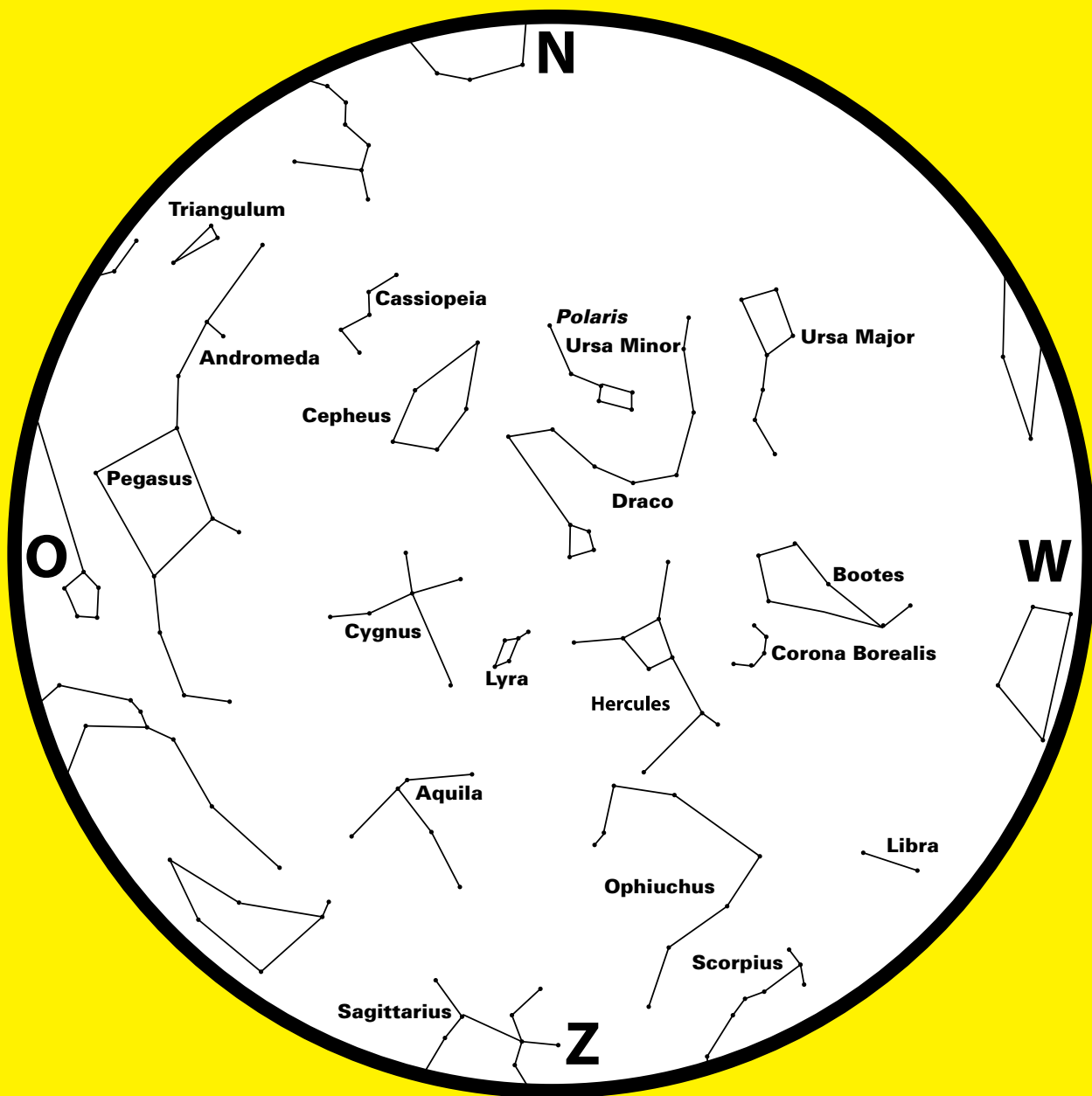
Night sky in summer



Night sky in autumn



Night sky in autumn



Night sky in summer