

STGZ248

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## HOW TO FIND THE NORTH STAR

HI THERE POLARIS PALS! TRACE HERE.

THE SKY IS A CONSTANTLY MOVING SEA OF STARS, GALAXIES, NEBULAE, COMETS, PLANETS, AND EVEN ORBITING OBJECTS LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION! TO FIND THINGS YOU NEED TO ORIENT YOURSELF – WHAT BETTER WAY THAN THE NORTH STAR?

HIT THE DARKNESS ANYTIME (BUT WE ARE USING 9PM HERE) AND LOOK FOR THE BIG DIPPER -- ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE ASTERISMS IN THE SKY – IT'S PART OF URSA MAJOR, THE GREAT BEAR.

USING THE TWO STARS ON THE END OF THE DIPPER MERAK AND DUBHE YOU CAN MAKE AN ARROW RIGHT TO POLARIS, THE NORTH STAR!

POLARIS ISN'T THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE SKY – FAR FROM IT, BUT IT HAS A SPECIAL DISTINCTION IN THAT IT'S POSITION ALIGNS WITH THE NORTH POLE OF OUR SPINNING PLANET – SO IT APPEARS STATIONARY IN THE SKY!

OVER TIME, THE EARTH'S AXIS MOVES – CALLED PRECESSION – SO IN THE FUTURE POLARIS WILL BE JUST ANOTHER STAR IN THE SKY AND ANOTHER WILL BE THE NORTH STAR!

KEEP LOOKIN' UP!