



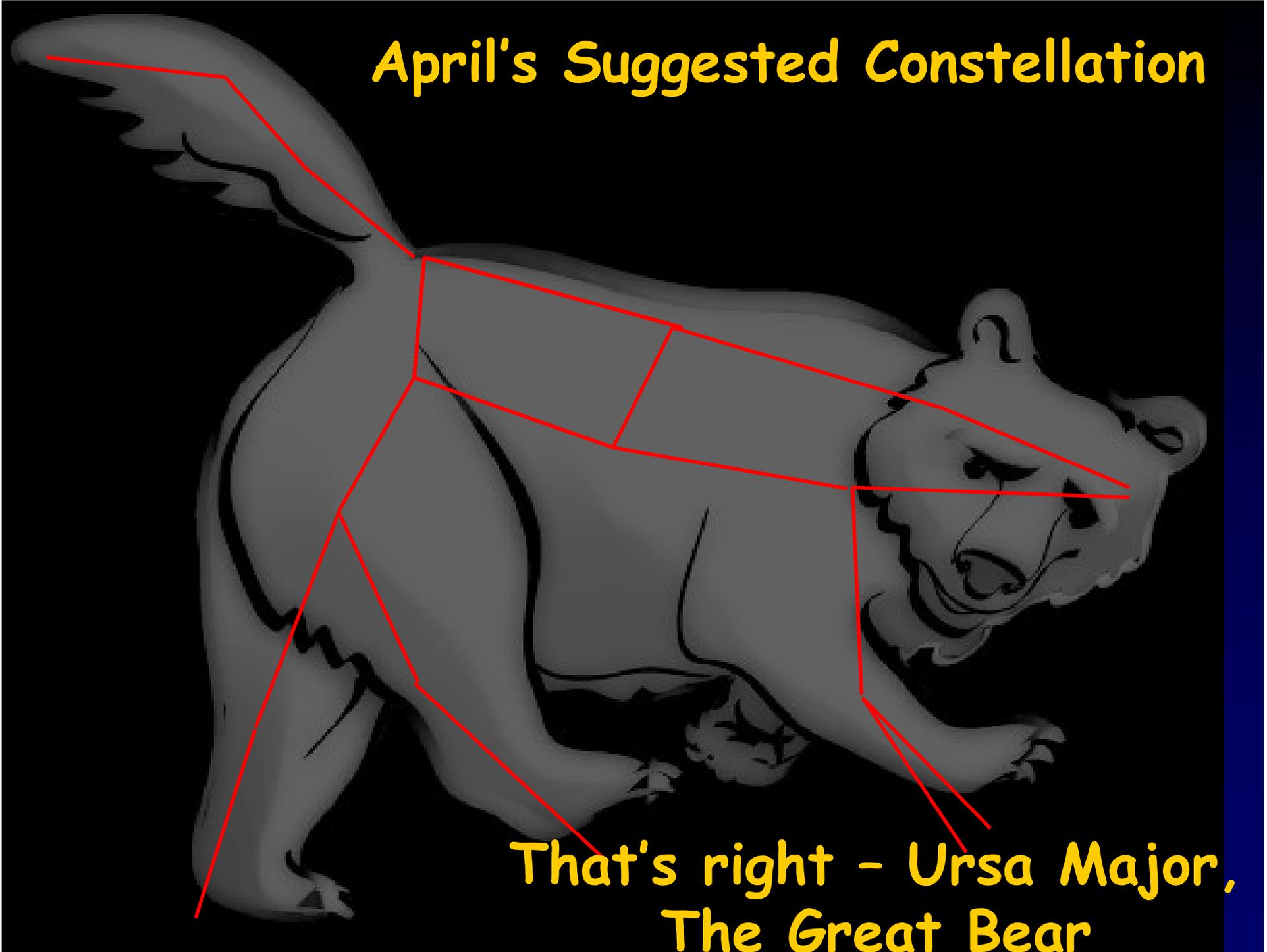
April's Suggested Constellation
- *but which one?*

April's Suggested Constellation



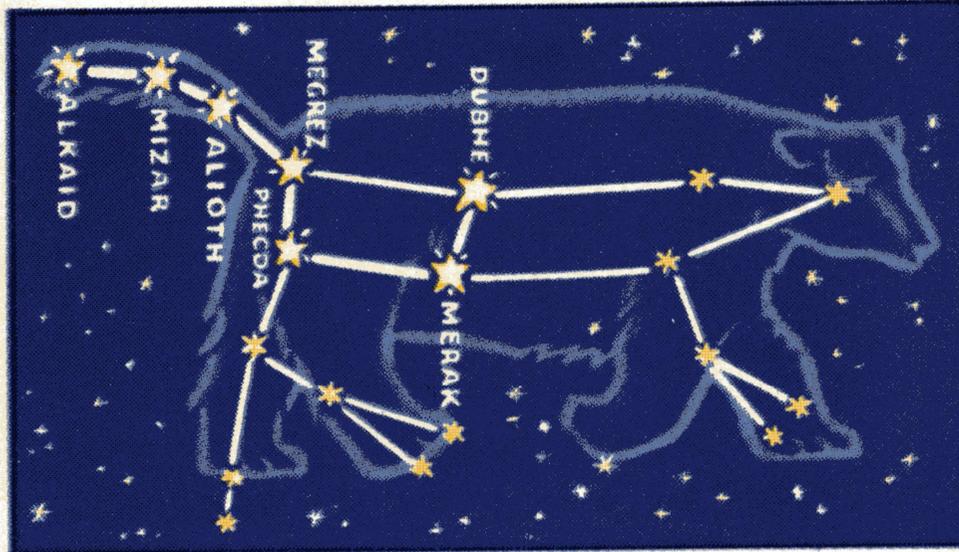
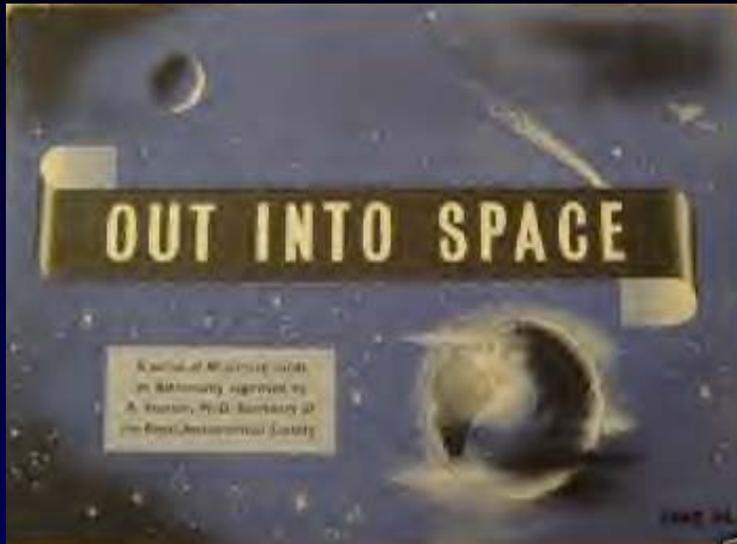
That's right - Ursa Major,
The Great Bear

April's Suggested Constellation



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The Great Bear

April's Suggested Constellation



URSA MAJOR
GREAT BEAR

A SERIES OF 50 No. 37

OUT INTO SPACE

Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D.,
Sec. Royal Astronomical Society

URSA MAJOR (The Great Bear)

Ursa Major, main part of which is also known as The Dipper, Plough, David's Car, Bier of Lazarus and Charles' Wain, is always visible in Great Britain. It is a guide to other constellations. It seemingly makes a complete circuit of the sky around Polaris (the Pole Star) in 23 hours 56 minutes; this is actually due to the Earth's rotation. The Plough consists of seven white stars. Dubhe and Merak are pointers to Polaris.

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Where is it?



As at about
10.00 p.m.
tonight

Ursa Major

60° 70° 80° 80° 70° 60°

Double Star
Mag 2.3 & 4.0

Messier Object:
M40 (asterism)

Variable Star
Mag 6.5 → 13.7

Messier Objects:
M81 (spiral galaxy) &
M82 (irregular galaxy)

Messier Object:
M101 (spiral galaxy)

Double Star
Mag 1.9 & 4.8

Messier Object:
M109 (spiral galaxy)

Messier Object:
M108 (spiral galaxy)

Messier Object:
M97 Owl Nebula
(planetary nebula)

Stars with very high
Proper Motion

Star with Jupiter
sized Planet

Double Star

Mag 4.4 & 4.9

Messier Objects in Ursa Major

M81 (NGC 3031)

Distance 4.5 million light years

Visual Brightness Magnitude 6.9

Apparent Dimensions 26 arc minutes

Discovered 1774 Johan Bode



M82 (NGC 3034)

Distance 17 million light years

Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.4

Apparent Dimensions 11 arc minutes

Discovered 1774 Johan Bode



M81 & M82

Messier Objects in Ursa Major (contd)



M108
(NGC 3556)

Distance 46 million light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 10.0
Apparent Dimension 8 arc minutes
Discovered 1781 Pierre Méchain



M109
(NGC 3992)

Distance 55 million light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.8
Apparent Dimension 7 arc minutes
Discovered 1781 Pierre Méchain

Messier Objects in Ursa Major (contd)



M101 (NGC 2392)

Distance 17.5 million light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 7.9
Apparent Dimension 28 arc minutes
Discovered 1781 Pierre Méchain



M97 (NGC 2392)
The Owl Nebula

Distance 1,630 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.9
Apparent Dimension 170 arc seconds
Discovered 1781 Pierre Méchain