

Betelgeuse



In **November through February**, the red star Betelgeuse (bee-tel-juice or bay-tel-gyse) is high in the sky. In the Greek tradition, this is the shoulder of the hunter Orion, one of the most well-known constellations. There are many bright stars in this area of the sky.

These stars are important markers for cultures around the world, for example:

- North American Dakota tribe see a buffalo embryo.
- Brazilian Tucano people see the handle of a wood carving tool.
- The Boorong (Aboriginal tribe) in Australia see a foot of a dancing man.
- Ancient Egyptians saw the father of the gods, "Sah."
- Ancient Macedonians were a farming culture and saw a plough.



Dubhe

A circumpolar star seen **all year long** in northern latitudes, Dubhe (doob-hah), is important to almost all cultures north of the equator. While many use the same stars to make the constellation, what they represent varies tremendously. Greeks saw Ursa Major, a great bear, and we often refer to the stars near it as the “big dipper.”

- The Sami people, indigenous to northern Norway, see the bow and arrow of a great hunter.
- In Hawaiian starlines, the star is a vertebrae in a backbone and this line is used extensively in navigation.
- Some Mongolian stargazers see seven Buddah.
- The Ojibwe tell of a type of weasel called a “fisher” whose appearance signaled the time to tap trees for syrup.

Dubhe



Pleiades

From **November through April**, the open cluster of young stars, known to the Greeks as the Pleiades (plee-uh-dees) or seven sisters are easy to recognize. How many stars can you see?

- The Mapuche people of southern Chile see freshly dug potatoes. They use this set of stars to help predict the weather.
- Siberians see a duck's nest of eggs.
- Native people of Greenland see a pack of dogs surrounding a polar bear
- The Tupi see a white ostrich.



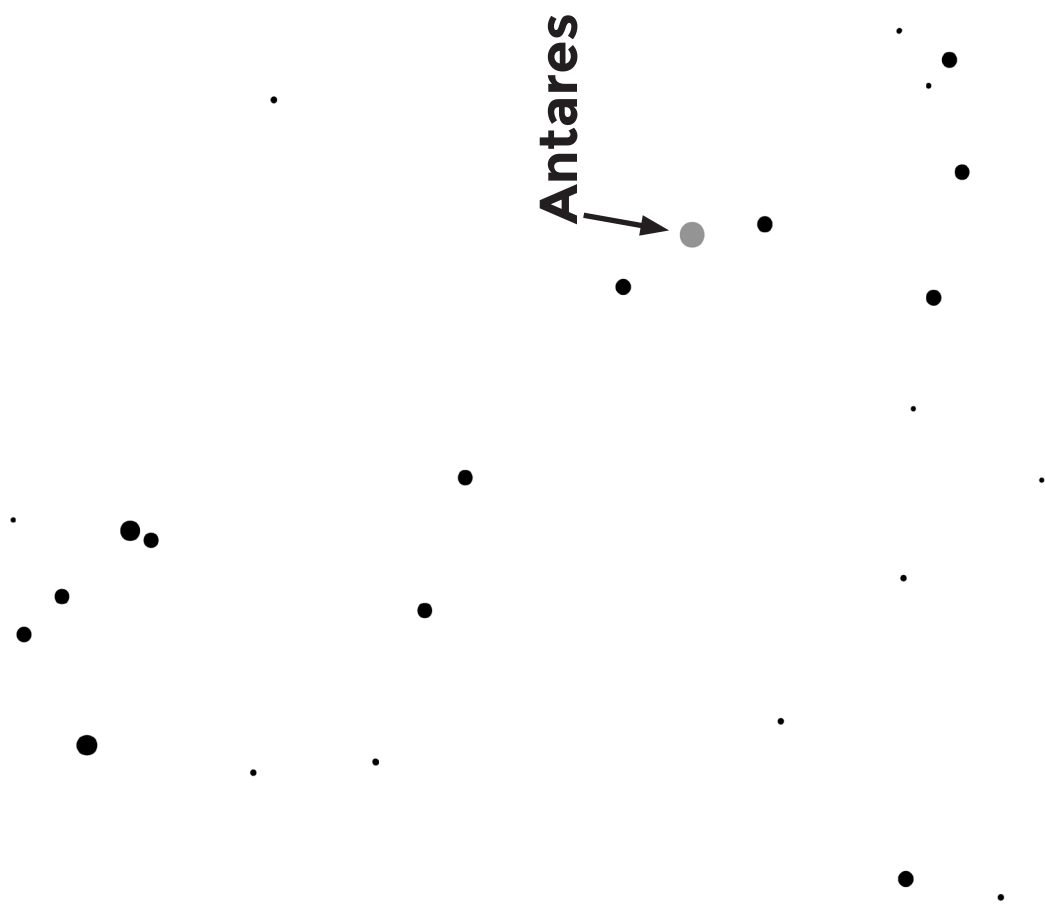
Pleiades



Antares

From **June through September**, the red star *Antares* (an-tare-ees) has fascinated skygazers throughout history and around the world. The Greeks saw the heart of a scorpion and we call this area of the sky *Scorpius*.

- The Boorong natives of Australia see the red tail of a parrot.
- Both the Chinese and Japanese cultures see a heart.
- Indian legends call this star “the eldest one.”
- Ancient Egyptians saw a flock of birds in this area.



Acrux

In the southern hemisphere, Acrux is seen **all year long** and is the bright blue star in the smallest of the Greek constellations - the Southern Cross.

- The Maori people see an anchor.
- In southern Africa, the Sotho and others use these stars, the 4 giraffes, to help signal the growing season for crops.
- Incan civilization records a stairway that held deep significance to the culture.
- Some Australian Aborigines see the eye of an emu, with its body along the Milky Way.

