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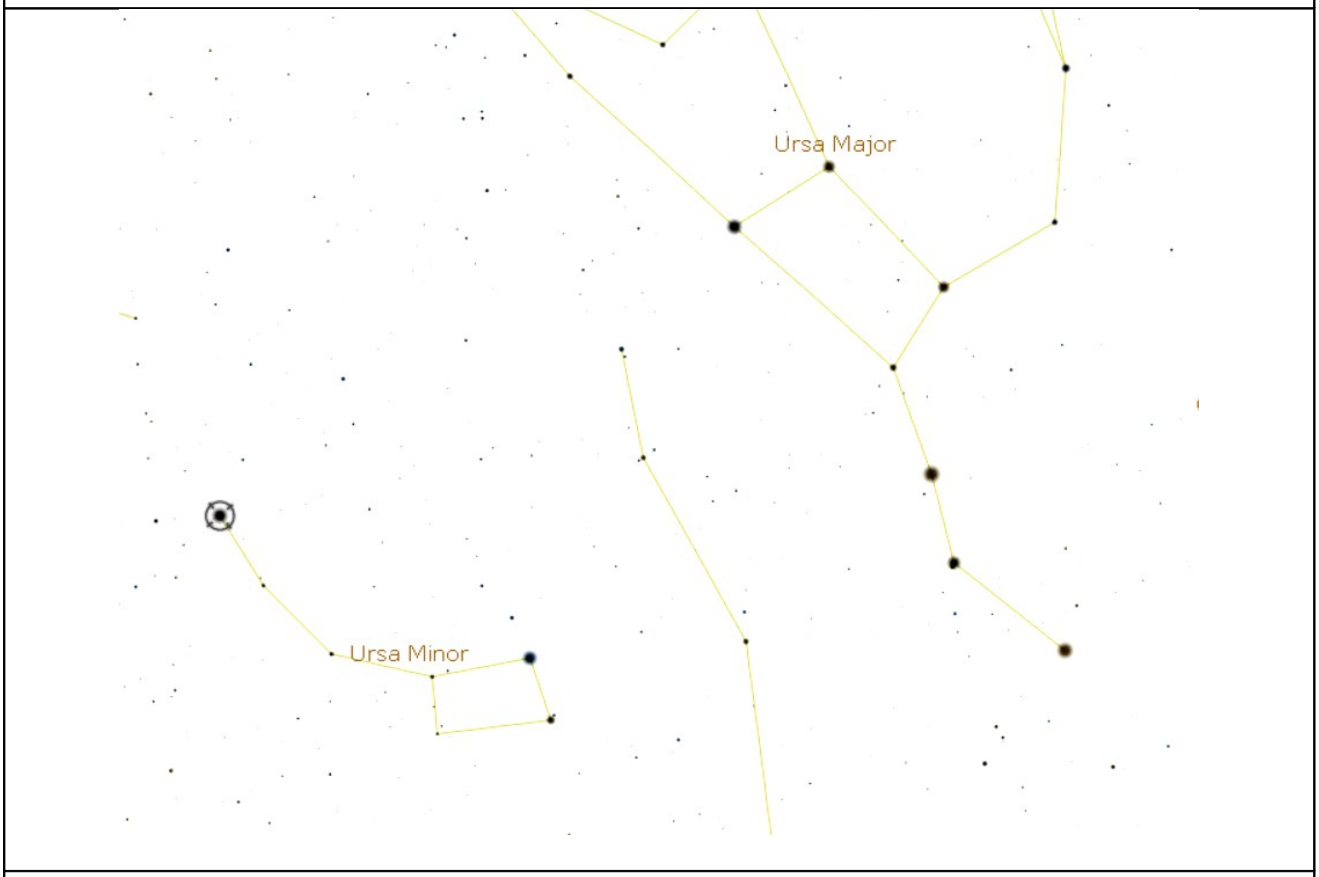
Polaris



Quick Facts:

Distance: 430 light-years

Constellation: Ursa Minor

The current bright star closest to the axis of the earth's rotation. The double star is easy to split in a small scope even though the companion is 600 times fainter. Polaris is actually a triple star, with the bright naked-eye primary actually also a double, discovered by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2006.

Find it: Find Polaris by using the Big Dipper's first two (pointer) stars, extend their length by about 5 times. GOTO: NAMED STARS.

Image: Stellarium. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.