

SPACE ATLAS FOR CHILDREN

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY FOR YOUNG ASTRONAUTS SPACE ATLAS

Written by Jiří Dušek and Jan Píšala
Illustrations by Tomáš Tůma



B4U PUBLISHING

STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS

If you look at the night sky in fine weather, you'll see a lot of small lights. Most of these will be stars, but there may be some planets among them. With a bit of luck you may spot an artificial satellite, a meteor or a flashing aircraft. Stars are huge balls of hot, glowing gases. On the surface of a star the temperature is higher than incandescent iron. Yet a star's surface is its coolest part! At its centre the temperature can reach one hundred million degrees Celsius!

In the past people in Europe, Asia, Australia and America gave different names to the same groups of stars. In the Great Bear (Ursa Major) constellation, for instance, the Burmese saw a crab, while Finns saw in it a salmon, Indians seven sages, American Indians a plough and Egyptians a crocodile.

CENTAUR
The brightest star in the constellation Centaur is called Alpha Centauri. It contains an enormous star cluster. Centaur lies on the plane of the Milky Way.



GREAT BEAR
This constellation is visible throughout the year. It includes the famous Plough. It helps us find the Little Bear (Ursa Minor) constellation and the star Polaris.

TAURUS

This constellation is located near Orion. Its brightest star Aldebaran is orange-coloured. It is easily seen in the night sky from October to March.



LITTLE BEAR

Inconspicuous constellation whose brightest star Polaris is found all night long over the northern horizon. Polaris is also known as the North Star and it shows us which way is north; otherwise it is not an especially conspicuous star.



CYGNUS

Constellation which lies on the plane of the Milky Way. It looks like a large cross. Its brightest star is Deneb. Deneb is the largest and most distant star that can be seen in the sky without use of a telescope. You will find Cygnus in the night sky from May to November.



SOUTHERN CROSS

The stars of the Crux constellation – which is located on the Milky Way – form an obvious star shape. The dark mark we find immediately next to the constellation is called the Coalsack.



LEO

This constellation is composed of a number of prominent stars. It is surrounded by many galaxies, but these cannot be seen without a telescope. Its brightest star is called Regulus. We see Leo in the night sky from February to May.



CASSIOPEIA

Five bright stars grouped together in the shape of the letter 'W'. It is bordered by the constellation Andromeda, part of which is a nearby galaxy. This is so bright that it can be seen in the night sky without a telescope. Cassiopeia is most clearly visible between September and December.



ORION

Seven bright stars grouped in the shape of an hourglass or a butterfly in flight. It contains an enormous nebula that can be seen with a small telescope. Orion's brightest star, which is orange in colour, is called Betelgeuse. This constellation is easy to see in the night sky from October to March.



Stars are extremely large – much larger than planet Earth. Unlike the Sun they are very far away from us. If Earth were the size of the full stop at the end of this sentence, the typical star would be as big as an orange.



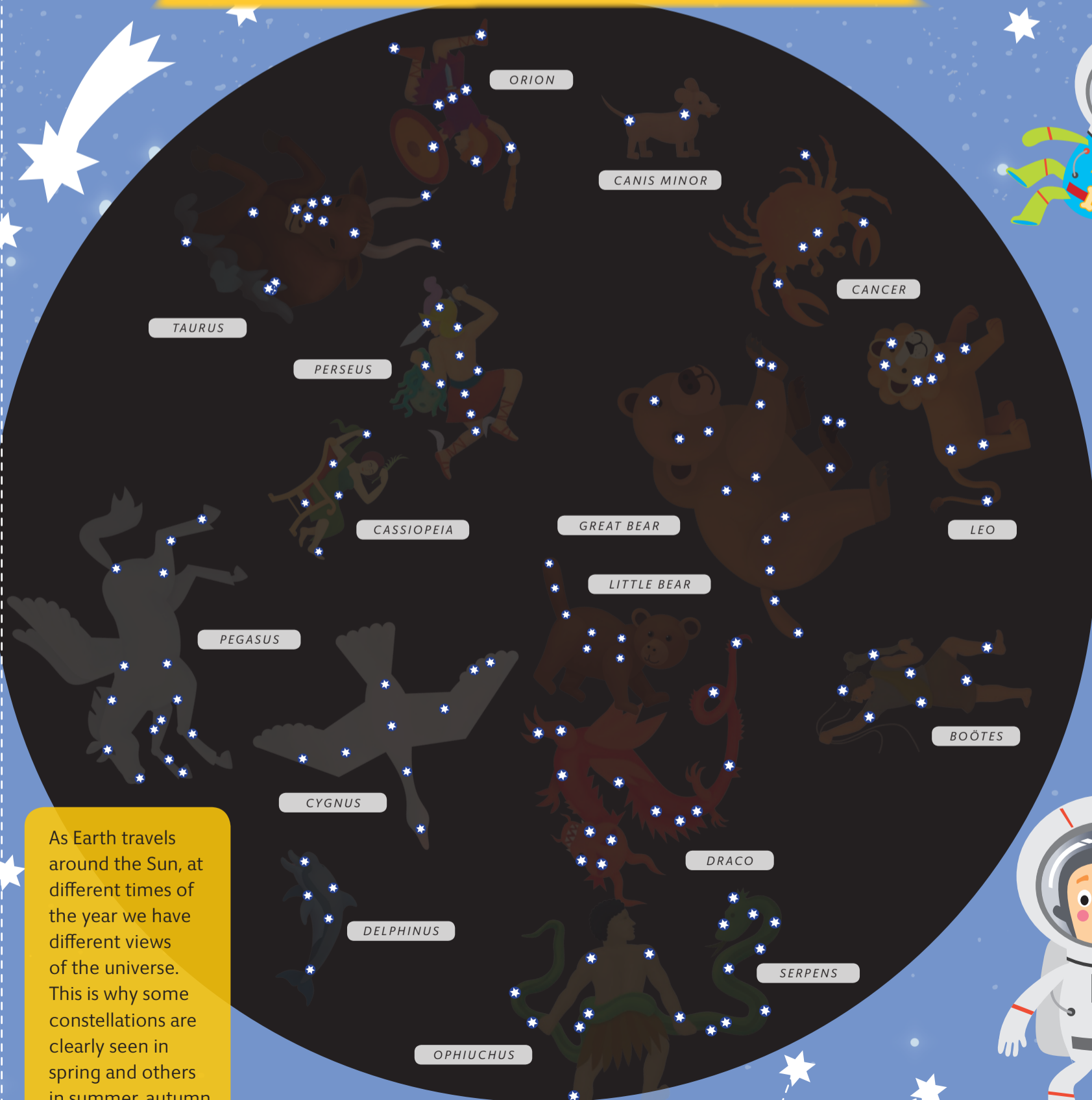
RED DWARF

Stars that are smaller than the Sun are known as red dwarfs. They shine for dozens of billions of years. A star that is larger than our sun may explode at the end of its life. Such a massive explosion is known as a supernova.



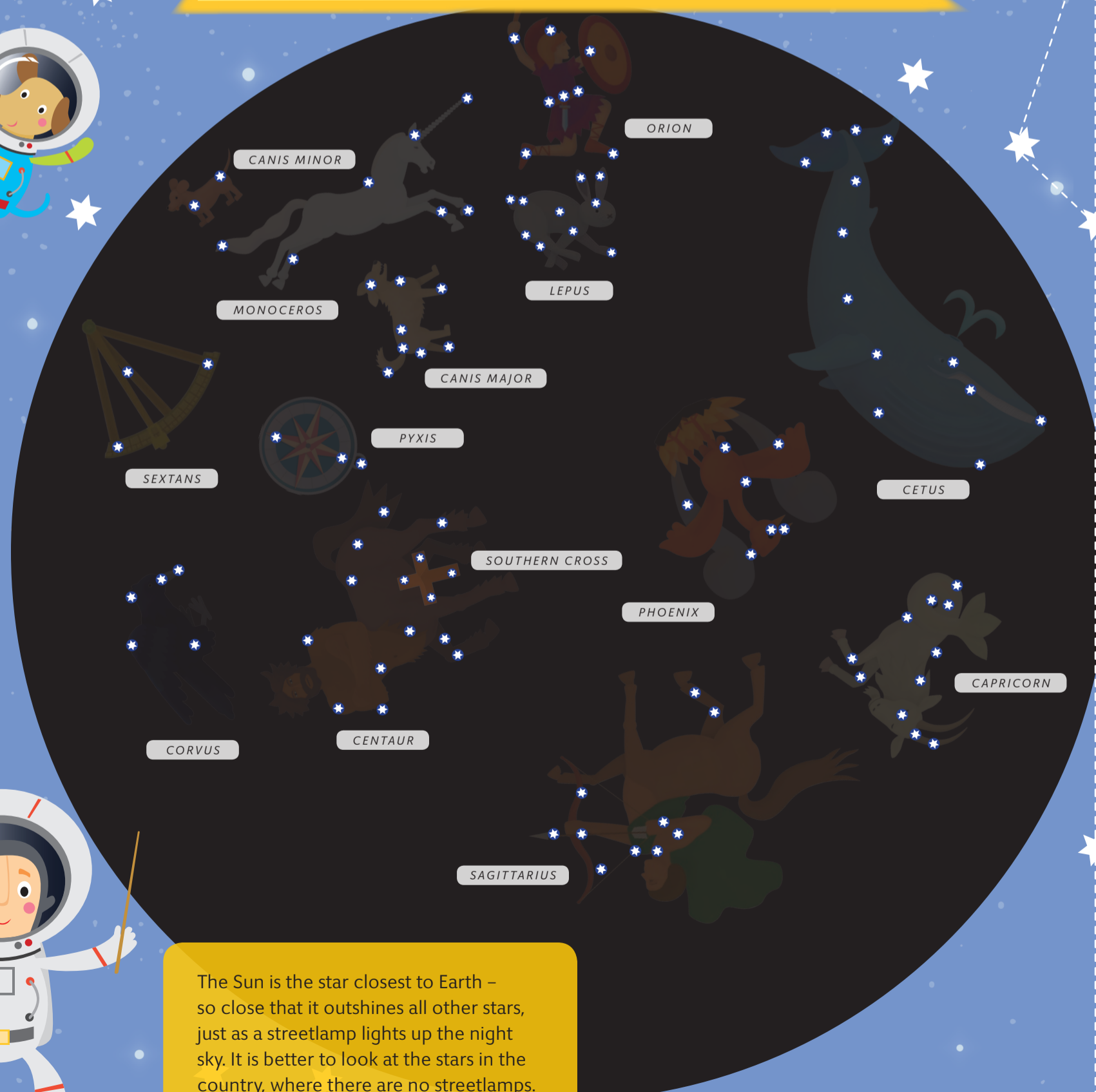
SUPERNOVA

NORTHERN SKY



As Earth travels around the Sun, at different times of the year we have different views of the universe. This is why some constellations are clearly seen in spring and others in summer, autumn or winter.

SOUTHERN SKY



The Sun is the star closest to Earth – so close that it outshines all other stars, just as a streetlamp lights up the night sky. It is better to look at the stars in the country, where there are no streetlamps.

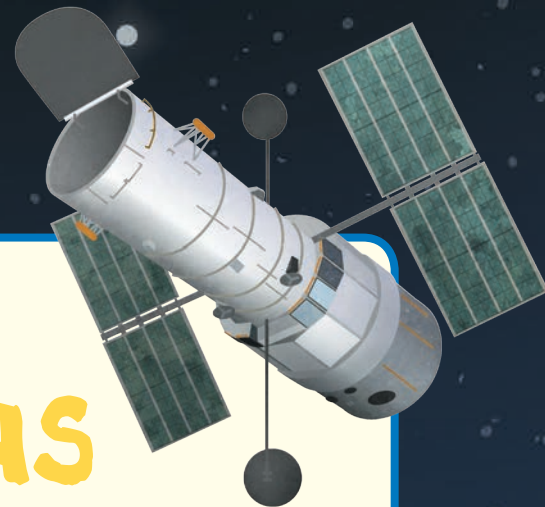
NORTHERN SKY

SOUTHERN SKY



From Europe, Asia or North America we see different stars and constellations than we do from Australia, Africa or South America. Planet Earth blocks our view of the Antipodes. Of the 88 constellations, from Europe we can see only sixty.

Often the shapes of clouds remind us of something; it is the same with stars. In history different groupings of stars have reminded people of different things, such as epic heroes, animals or everyday objects. It was by these associations that the constellations developed.



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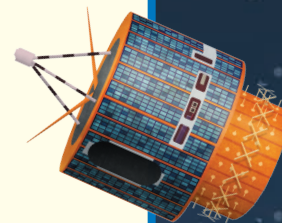
A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY FOR YOUNG ASTRONAUTS

The Space Atlas is a wonderfully illustrated new atlas with 6 big folding pages that introduces young readers to the wonders of outer space and reveals them a fascinating story of the creation of stars and planets. It is filled with beautiful full-colour illustrations of the solar system, easy-to-follow charts of major constellation, plus a wealth of illustrated facts.

This remarkable atlas gives children a glimpse into our exciting universe.

**The child will learn the most important information interesting and playful way.
Appropriate for the schools, too.**

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