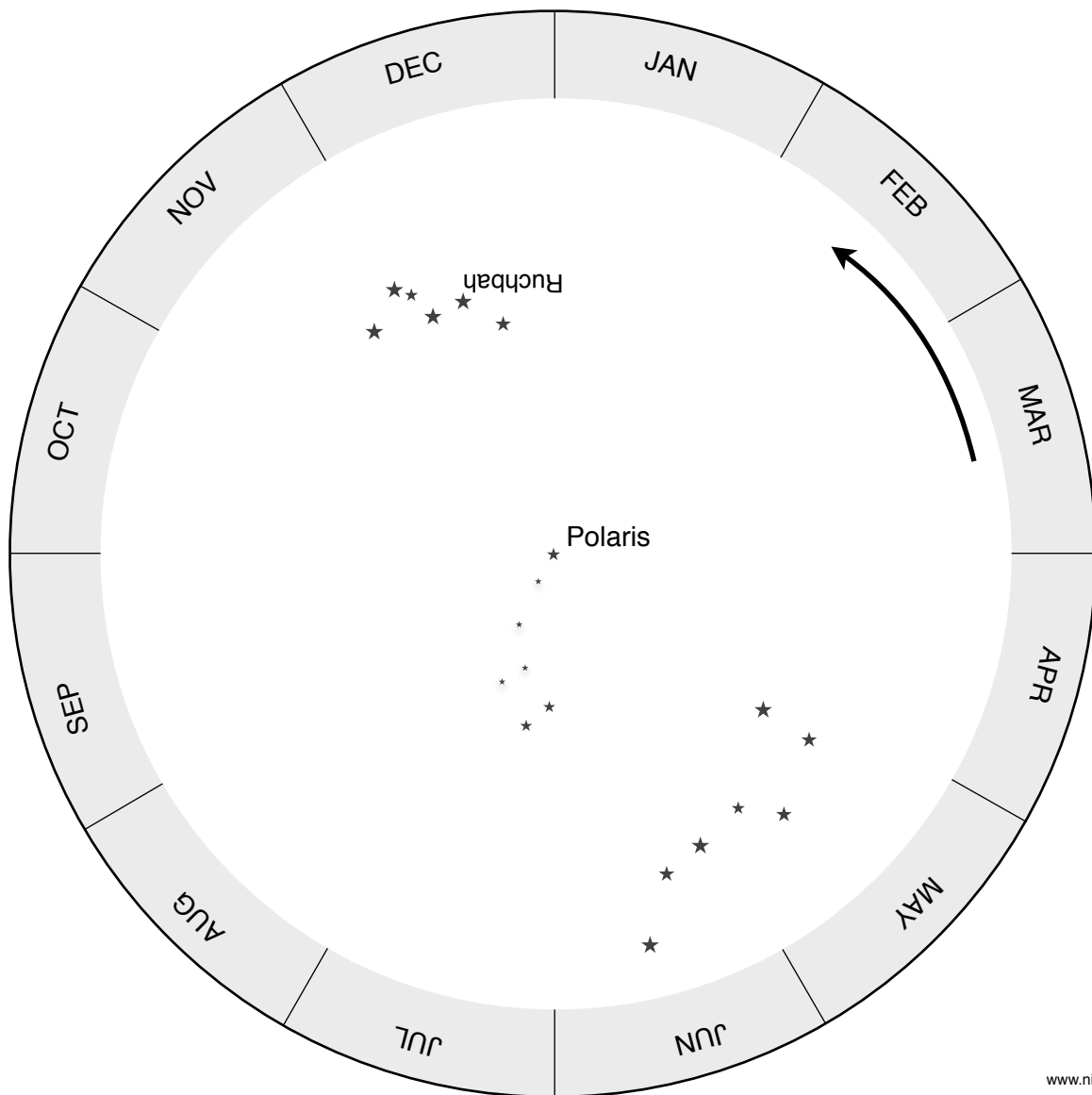


Centennial Star US National Park Service

When you face north at night, the stars appear to rotate slowly around Polaris, the North Star. To find the North Star, trace out the Big Dipper and keep going in the direction water would pour out. Notice that Polaris is not the brightest star. Sometimes the Big Dipper is low among trees or buildings, so you can also use the constellation Cassiopeia (shaped like a W) to help you find Polaris.

The star Ruchbah in Cassiopeia is about 100 light years away. The starlight that left Ruchbah in 1916 when the US National Park Service formed—traveling at 186,000 miles per second—is just now reaching our eyes!



www.nightwise.org

DIRECTIONS:

Cut out the circle with months and stars. Center it over the plain circle that has times across the top. Push a paper fastener through Polaris, the center star of both circles.

Move the star wheel so the date matches up with the time of night. That's how the stars will appear at that time. Notice how Polaris (hidden below the paper fastener) does not move.