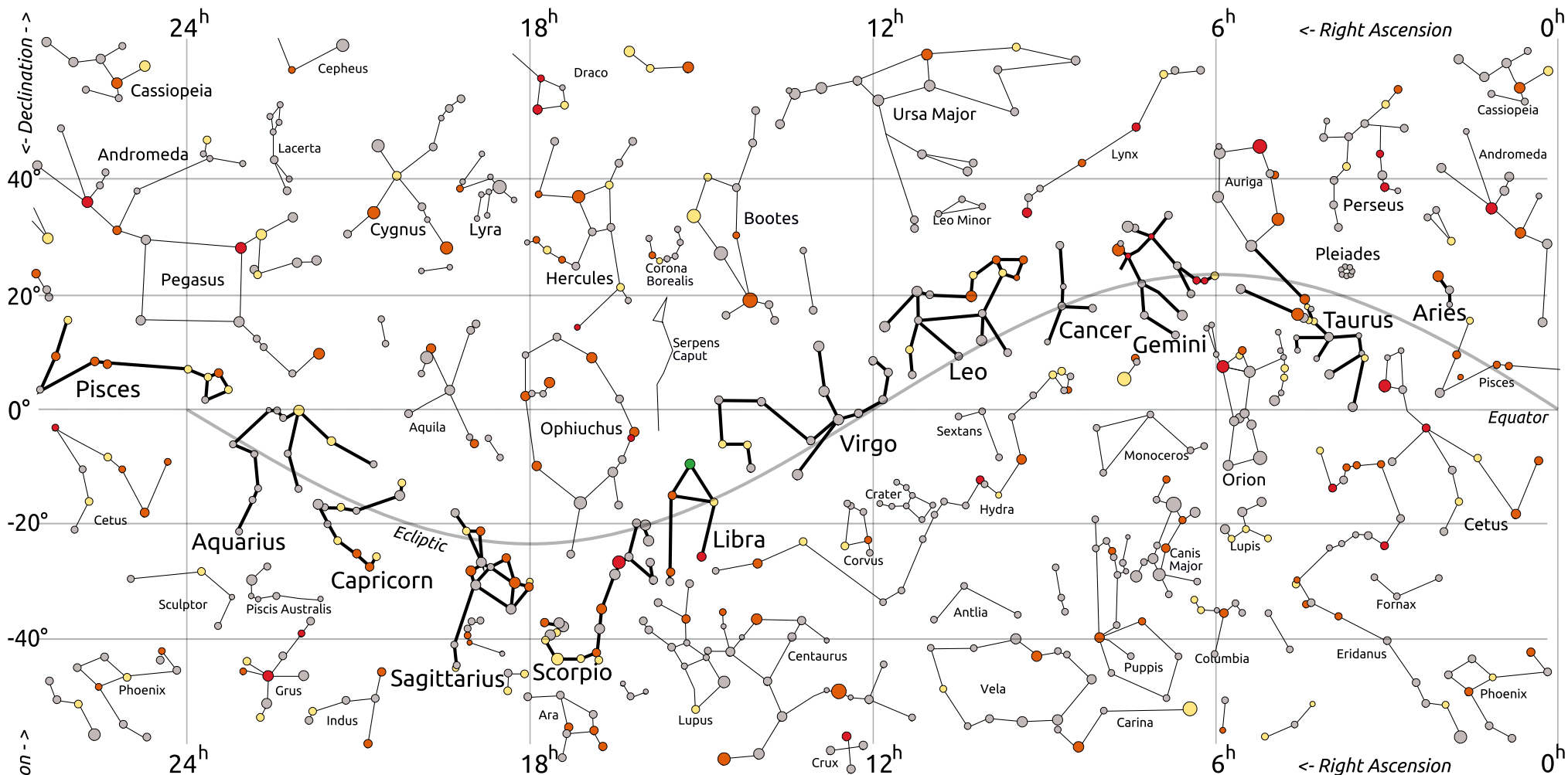
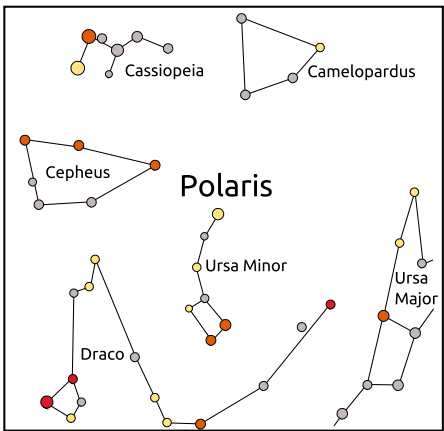


The LTO Star Wall



Legend

■ Bright Nebula	■ Messier
◆ Dark Nebula	■ Caldwell
○ Planetary Nebula	Magnitude
● Open Cluster	● 0
⊕ Globular Cluster	● 1
○ Galaxy	● 2
⬠ Supernova Remnant	● 3
+ Other	● 4
	● 5



Northern Circumpolar Constellations

The Constellations in the northern circumpolar sky include Auriga, Camelopardalis, Cassiopeia, Cepheus, Draco, Lynx, Perseus, Ursa Major, and Ursa Minor. These constellations are always visible in the night sky of the Northern Hemisphere.

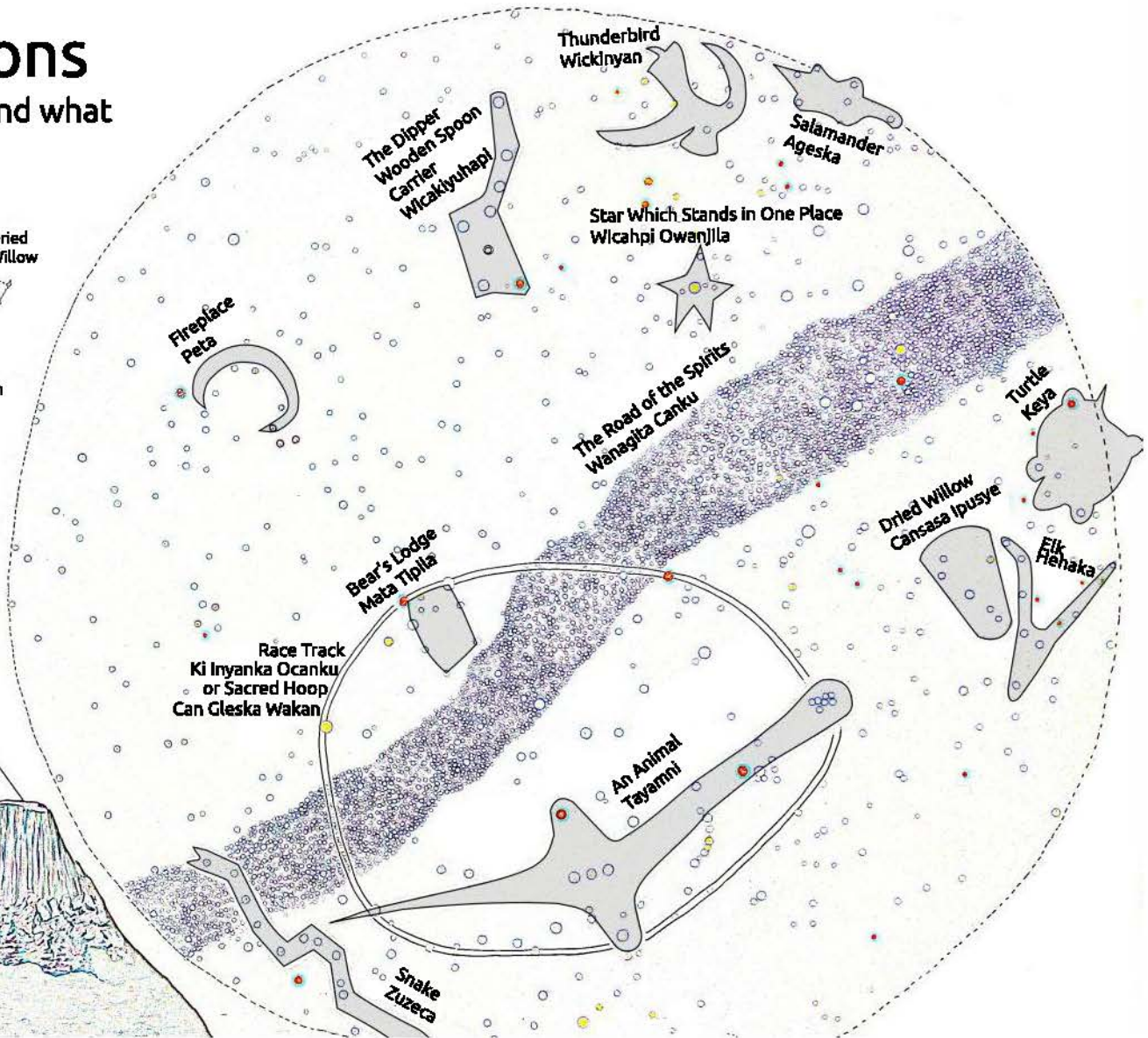
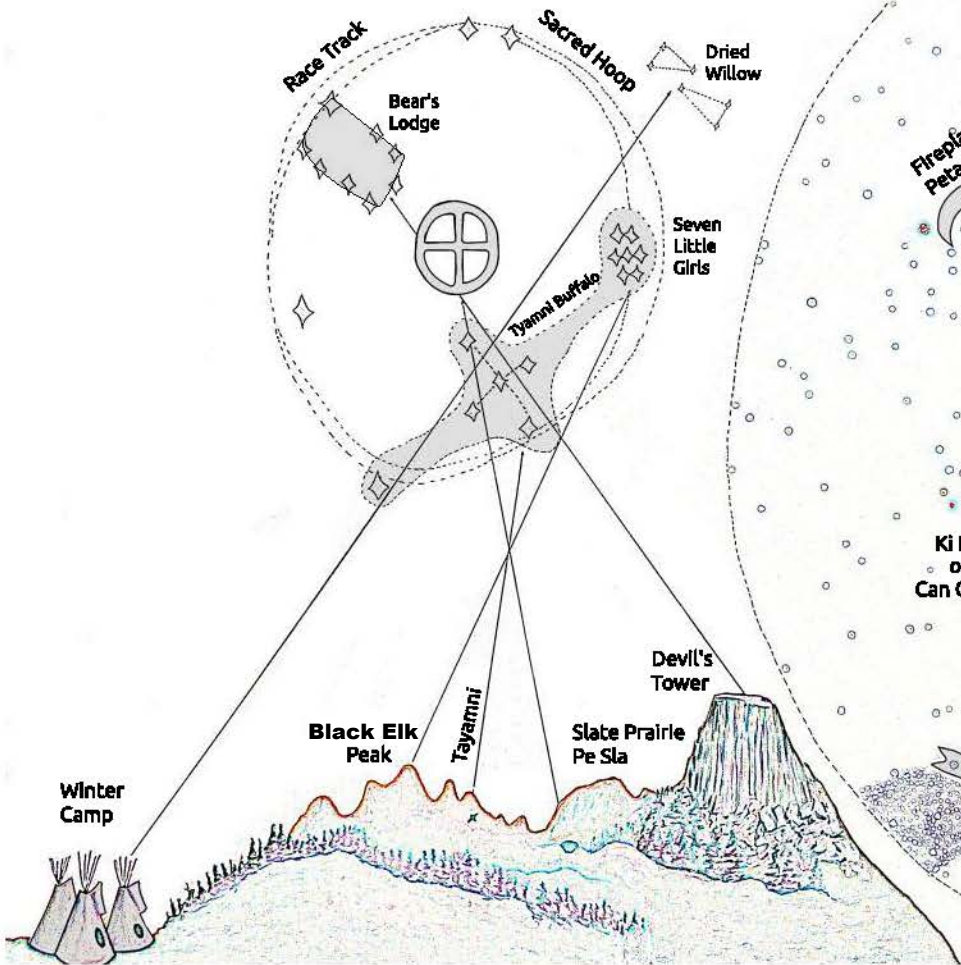
Right Ascension:

- 0 hours: Vernal Equinox
- 6 hours: Summer Solstice
- 12 hours: Autumnal Equinox
- 18 hours: Winter Solstice
- 24 hours: Vernal Equinox

Due to precession (the shift in the orientation of Earth's axis of rotation) the location of the Earth's orbit at which equinoxes and solstices occur will change. The location of the current summer solstice will become the location of winter solstice in 13,000 years (=1 degree every 71.6 years). In only 3,000 years Gamma Cephei will become the north star!

Lakota Constellations

"What is on the earth is in the stars, and what is in the stars is on the earth."



The Race Track

When the sun is in the Lakota constellation	The People will be at	Time and Ceremony
1. Dried Willow	Winter camp in Nebraska and W. South Dakota	Spring Equinox and Pipe ceremony
2. Seven Little Girls Pleiades	Harney Peak	Welcoming back the Thunder Storms
3. Tayamni the Animal or Buffalo	Tayamni "Bare Place" Rocky Outcrop	
4. Center of Race Track or Sacred Hoop	Pe Sla (Slate Prairie) Center of Black Hills	Welcome back all life in peace
5. The Bear's Lodge Gemini	Devil's Tower	Summer Solstice Sun Dance

The Fallen Star Stories - The Fallen Star story provides the basis for the spirit's journey. "A Lakota woman marries a star and is taken to the star world where she becomes pregnant. When she digs out a wild turnip, she makes a hole in the star world. Able to see the earth and her own village through the hole, she becomes homesick. She braids the turnips to make a rope. The rope, however, does not reach far enough and she falls to the earth and dies. Her baby is born and is raised by a meadowlark. As meadowlarks speak Lakota, Fallen Star learns to speak it too. When the meadowlark grows old, he brings Fallen Star to a Lakota village to live." The Fallen Star story outlines the Lakota belief that a human person is composed of matter and spirit. The spirit separates from the body at death, returning to its original home with the stars.

Journey into the Spirit World - When a Lakota dies their body returns to grandmother sacred below. The spirit rises up into the spirit world, returning to grandfather sacred above. Formerly, there was a star in the center of the Big Dipper. Now, however, there is an opening or hole where the star was located. The spirit comes up into the spirit world through this hole which was made when Fallen Star's mother dug out the first wild turnip.

Credit for this summary goes to Ronald Goldman's Lakota Star Knowledge, Studies in Lakota Stellar Theology, Sinte Gleska University, Rosebud, SD, 1992