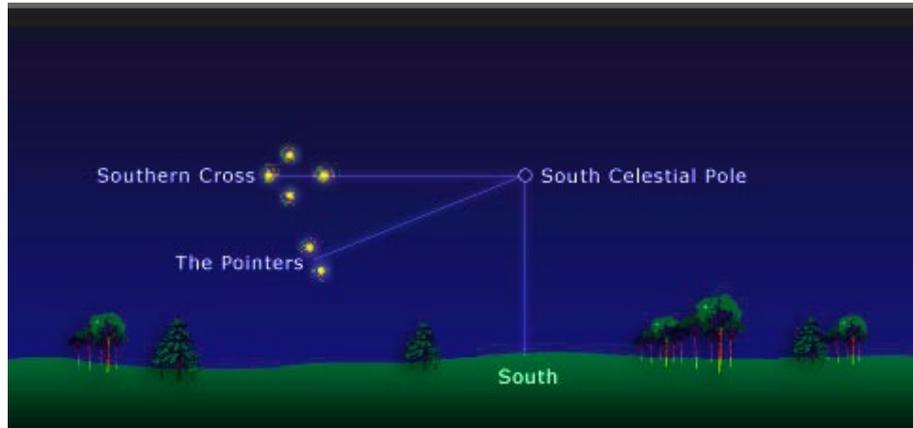




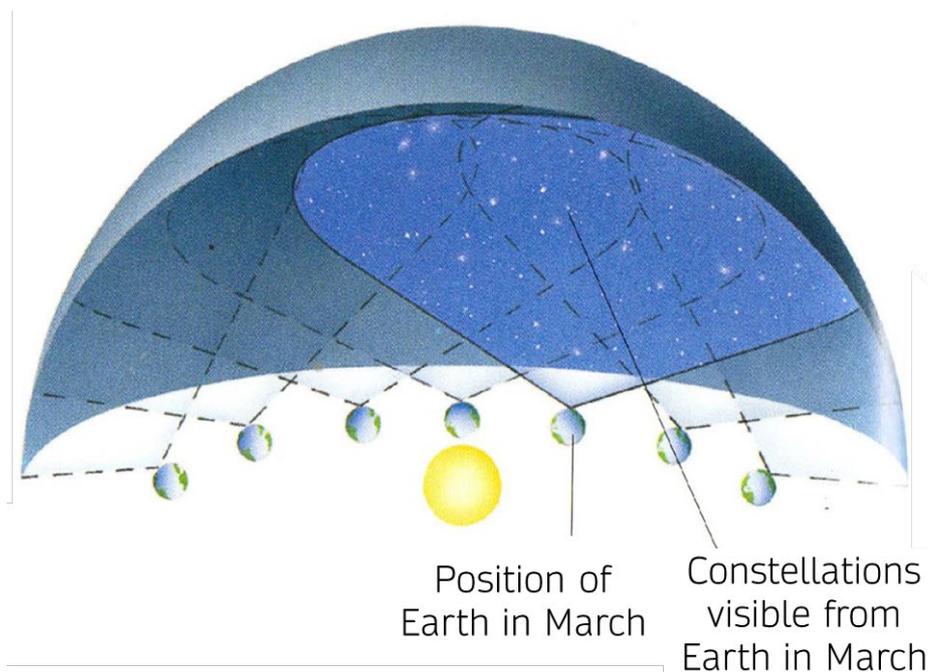
Visual objects in the New Zealand night sky include the Southern Cross, and Matariki (the Pleiades)

People have grouped stars into imagined patterns called constellations since ancient history. The most famous constellations are those that form the 12 signs of the zodiac (Leo, Aries, and Cancer etc.) but our most well-known and visible constellation seen only in the Southern hemisphere is the Southern Cross.



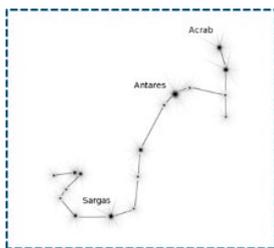
Because of Earth's rotation the stars are not in the same place throughout the night

As the earth orbits the Sun, we see a different portion of the sky. There are some stars we see at all times of the year from New Zealand, like the stars that form the **constellation** the Southern Cross, and others that we never see, like the North Star.

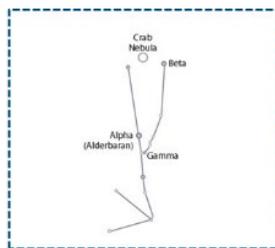


Constellations are seen as a 2-dimensional view (like seeing them on a flat sheet) of 3-dimensional space – where stars in a single constellation are at different distances from earth. Different constellations are seen at different times of the year and from different places on Earth. Stars that make up a constellation may be brighter because they are closer to Earth and/or they are bigger/brighter stars.

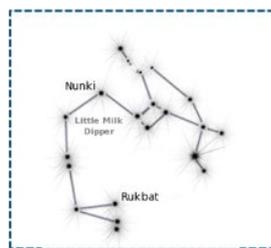
## Main constellations in the Southern Night Sky



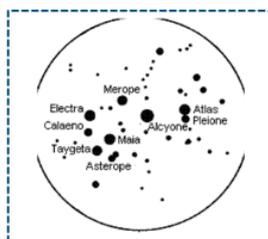
Scorpio



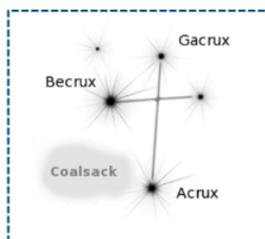
Taurus



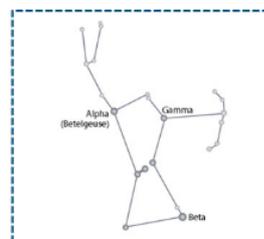
Sagittarius



Pleiades



Crux



Orion

### Matariki

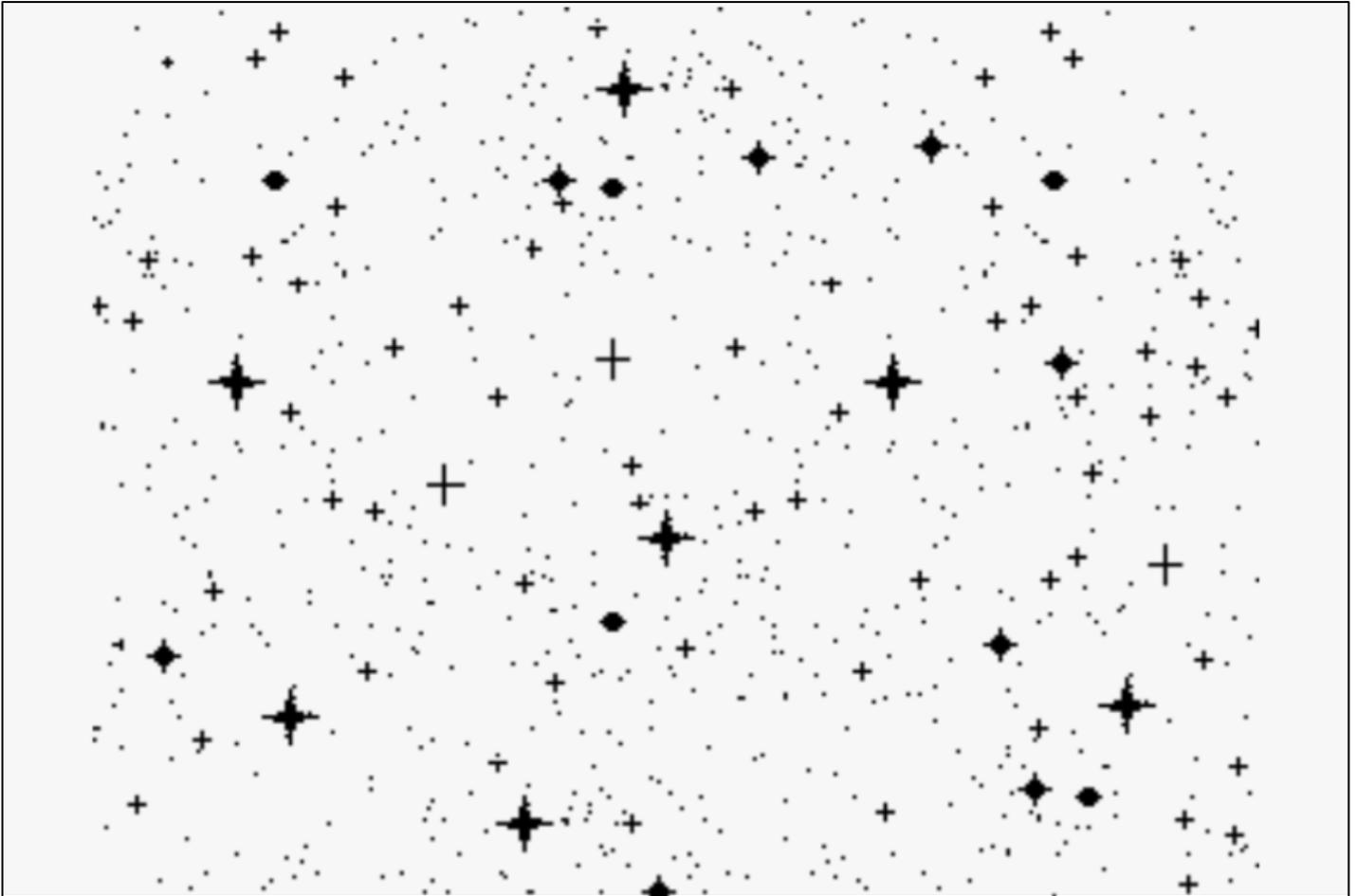
Matariki is the Māori name for a cluster of stars – a seven-star constellation that appears in late May or early June each year. Each winter the stars of Matariki and Puanga signal the end of one year in Aotearoa and the beginning of the next.

The rise of Matariki is a time to celebrate and prepare for the Māori New Year. It was a time when crops were harvested, and seafood and birds were collected – a time of celebration and food, but also a time for preparing and storing for times of shortage ahead. Matariki was a time to practise manaakitanga – to share kai and present offerings to others.

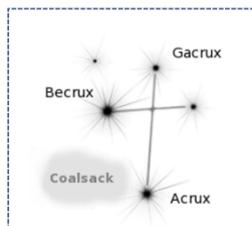
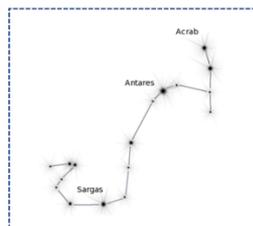
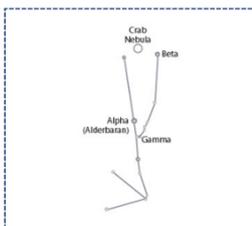
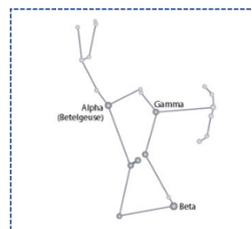
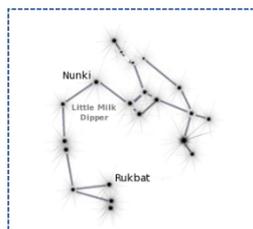
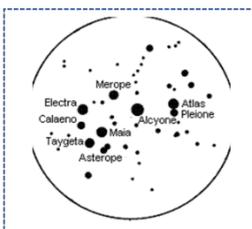




1. Draw lines to make your own constellations – they could be animals or any other object – then give them a name



2. Match the constellations with their correct name



- Orion
- Taurus
- CruX
- Pleiades
- Scorpio
- Sagittarius

3. Some Māori iwi celebrated Matariki by flying kites. The kites are called manu tukutuku or manu aute. Manu is the Māori word for bird. The kites were decorated with many materials, including shells, feathers, horns, coloured shapes and carving. Decorate your own Matariki manu tukutuku to represent yourself and your whanau.

