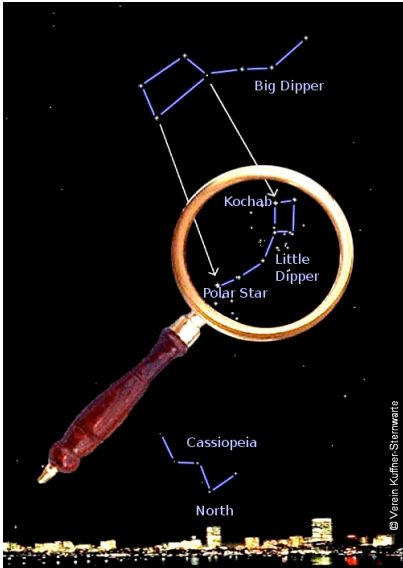


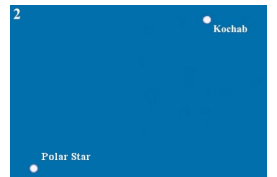
# How many stars...? Look at your sky and report to sternhell.at



## How to help and participate

1. **Look** for an observing site under clear and moonless skies.
2. **Locate** the constellation of the Little Dipper by first locating the Polar Star and Kochab, the brightest stars of the Little Dipper (with the help of the large image and the big dipper) or look for Orion and its three belt stars.
3. **Compare** the stars that you can see with the naked eye, (without binoculars or a telescope, but using your glasses) either in the Little Dipper or in the constellation of Orion to the respective small reference images on this page.
4. **Kindly report** the image number (1 to 7) of the constellation-image that matches most closely to what you actually see together with date, clock-time (that is local legal time) observing location by using the observation form at the **How many stars?- website** <http://sternhell.at> where you can see all results immediately.

**Hints and Information:** Avoid places with nearby direct lighting, for example by streetlights. If you want to illuminate the instructions use a red flashlight, or cover the flashlight with your hand so that it dimly shines through it.



Before observing you should give your eyes time to adapt to the dark. We encourage you to repeat your observation at different days and different times even at the same spot.

**North of the line Casablanca-Cairo-Delhi-Shanghai-Los Angeles-Atlanta you can always use the Little Dipper**



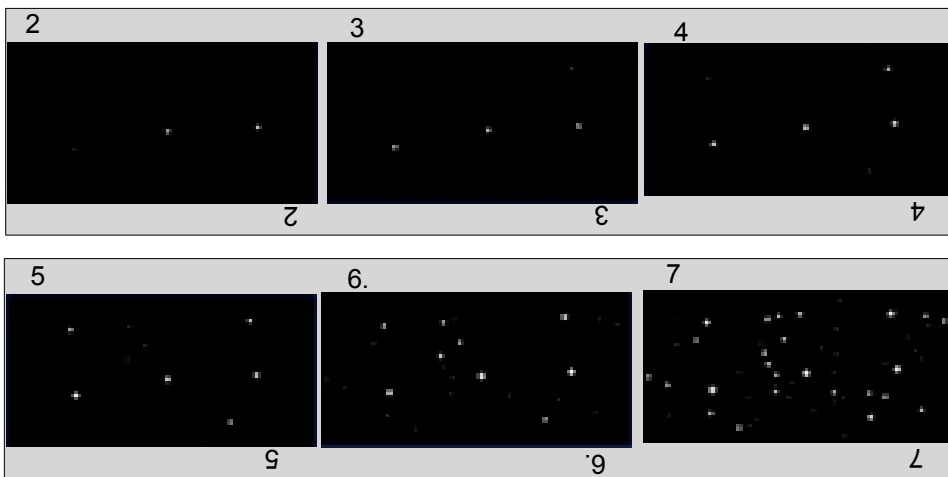
## Adopt a light meter and measure the brightness of your sky

Our goal is to record the state of the world's night skies for the first time during 2009. Newly developed light meters at 1000 places around the globe shall continuously measure the brightness of the night to determine the brightening of the night sky and provide a reference for the sightings of Orion and the Little Dipper. Help us, adopt a light meter and record the brightness of the night sky in your city, at your school or at your observatory. You need (1) a computer with USB and Windows XP/NT/2000. (2) A place with good view of the sky within 20m of the computer. (3) About 100 € for the light meter that might be funded by the IYA. Contact [Verein@Kuffner-Sternwarte.at](mailto:Verein@Kuffner-Sternwarte.at) for more information and to adopt a starlight-meter. <http://wiki.sternhell.at>

**Orion:** Observers in the South use the three *Belt Stars of Orion*, also known as the *Trés Marias* for their observations. Orion is visible during almost the entire night during the southern hemisphere summer (the northern winter). Orion is visible in the evening until May and reappears in July, in the morning, about an hour before sunrise .

## Southern observers use Orion: this side up

1: Belt stars invisible



1: Belt stars invisible

Northern observers may use Orion in Winter: this side up

