Mishi bizhiw - Curly Tail, Great Panther - Leo, Cancer

This constellation is a mountain lion/cougar/puma that were once more abundant in Minnesota. The big spirit cat is lives at the bottom of lakes and can cause flooding or water danger. Curly Tail is overhead in Spring. It rises in late winter. People knew that when the great cat was overhead the lakes would not be frozen and would be dangerous to cross. People knew it was time to move from winter camp to sugar bush camp. At sugar bush, feasts and prayers are offered for the water spirits (like Curly Tail) and to all those relatives that did not survive the winter.

Madoodiswan - Sweat Lodge - Corona & Noondeshin Bemaadizid - Exhausted Bather (Person) - Hercules

The sweat lodge is a purification ceremony. It is returning to the womb and remembering/renewing our spirit. The person is exhausted after participating in the sweat. He/She is exhausted on the outside but full of life and strong on the inside. The Sweat Lodge is seen overhead in late Spring and the Exhausted Bather is an early summer constellation.

Biboonkeonini - Wintermaker - Orion, Procyon (Canis Minor), Aldebaran (Taurus)

Wintermaker is a strong Ojibwe canoe man. His outstretched arms rule the winter sky. Wintermaker is seen overhead during the winter months. He is an important mythological figure in Ojibwe culture.

Maang - Loon - Little Dipper/Ursa Minor

The North Star and other stars in the Little Dipper/Ursa Minor make up the Ojibwe loon constellation. The loon is one of the Ojibwe clans and is seen as a very important messenger. Loon and crane are both leaders in the clan system, they work together. The loon stands at the doorway between the water and the land or the material and the spirit world.

The loon avoids leaving the water, it must have water to land and take off. Only to make a nest to lay eggs it goes on land. They prefer larger lakes. The loons' legs and feet are positioned way back and they can't walk well on land.
Ojibwe Constellation Guide – Ojibwe Giizhig Anung Masinaaigan
Ojibwe Sky Star Map

Ojilg - Fischer - Big Dipper/Ursa Major

This constellation relates to the story of when the birds and Spring were held prisoner by the ogres. Of all the animals it was only the Fischer that was able to trick the ogres and free the birds. He saved everyone with his courage and wit.

The fischer is the only animal that can kill and eat porcupines. Also it is not diurnal or nocturnal, but prefers to always be on the move, sleeping and eating night and day. It does not build a home in one place and return as most animals do, but rather makes its home in different places.

Giwedin’anung - North Star/Polaris

The night sky appears to rotate around this star in a counter-clockwise motion. This star is at the ‘center’ of all stars as seen from the northern hemisphere and because of this it is considered to be very important.

Mooz - Moose - Pegasus, Lacerta

This constellation is another animal of the Ojibwe clan system. The moose provides food, clothing, shelter for the people, much like deer or caribou.

Aijijaak/Bineshi Okanin - Crane/Skeleton Bird - Cygnus

The crane is one of the leaders in the Ojibwe clan system. Crane and loon lead the people to stay strong. This constellation is overhead a few hours after sunset in the summertime.

Nanaboujou - Nanaboujou - Scorpio

A hero figure and a spirit that had many excursions on Earth a long time ago. He helped the people by creating dry land after the last flood. He had many human characteristics, like making mistakes.

The constellation shows Nanaboujou shooting an arrow at the Great Panther, Curly Tail.

There are many important Nanaboujou stories that are traditionally told only when there is snow on the ground.