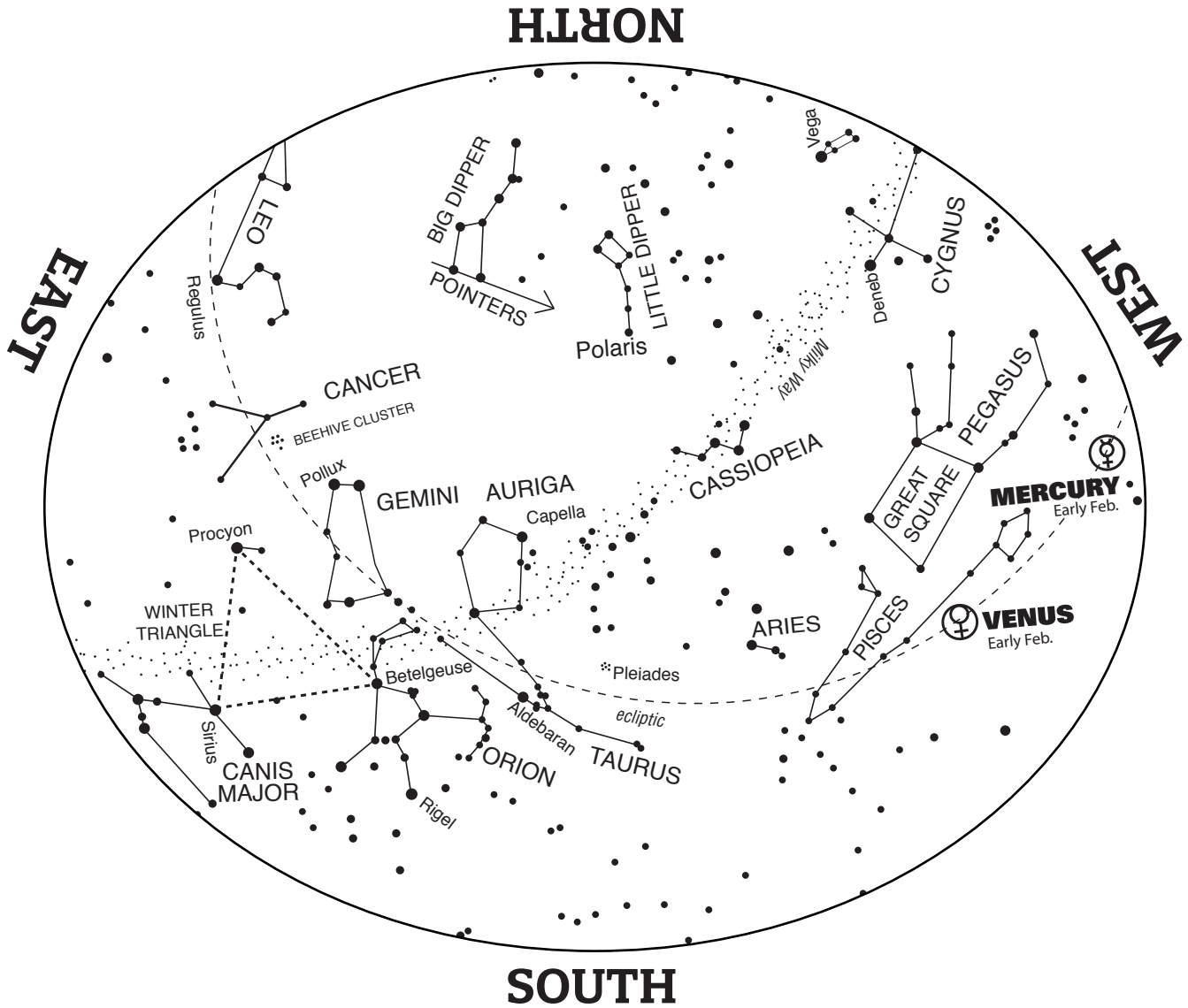


Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
410.685.5225 • www.marylandsciencecenter.org



TO USE MAP:

Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:

- 8:30pm Mid-Jan. EST
- 6:30pm Mid-Feb. EST

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness. The lower the number, the brighter the star

- 1st or brighter magnitude star
- 2nd magnitude star
- 3rd magnitude star
- 4th or fainter magnitude star

ECLIPTIC:

The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.

Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY

- ☾ **Jan 2**
First quarter Moon
- Jan 3**
Quadrantid meteors peak
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Jan 5**
Earth at Perihelion
- ☉ **Jan 10**
Full Moon
Superior conjunction
of Mercury
- Jan 13**
Saturn conjunction with Sun
- ☾ **Jan 17**
Last quarter Moon
Mars near Antares (Morning)
- Jan 20**
Moon near Mars (Morning)
- Jan 22**
Moon near Jupiter (Morning)
- ☀ **Jan 24**
New Moon
- Jan 28**
Moon near Venus
- ☾ **Feb 1**
First quarter Moon
- ☉ **Feb 9**
Full Moon
- Feb 10**
Mercury at greatest
elongation
- ☾ **Feb 15**
Last quarter Moon
- Feb 18**
Moon near Mars
(Morning)
- Feb 19**
Moon near Jupiter
(Morning)
- Feb 20**
Moon near Saturn
(Morning)
- ☀ **Feb 23**
New Moon
- Feb 25**
Inferior conjunction
of Mercury
- Feb 27**
Moon near Venus

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Quadrantid meteors peak January 3 – After the Moon sets, this could be an excellent meteor shower this year. Meteoroids are bits of debris from comets that burn up passing through Earth's atmosphere, creating a quick flash or streak of light called a "meteor" or "shooting star." A meteor shower is a high frequency of meteors that seem to come from one area of the sky. Meteor showers are usually named for the constellation that they radiate from, but in the case of the Quadrantids (named after, Quadrans Muralis) the constellation is no longer on modern star maps. Instead look for Quadrantid meteors from the night of January 3 to morning of January 4 near the Big Dipper.

Planet groupings – Early morning before sunrise the planets and the Moon are joining each other in a bit of a dance. On January 20 the Moon joins Mars then moves on to join Jupiter on January 22. In February, besides visiting Mars and Jupiter again, it also visits Saturn. The Moon visits Mars the morning of February 18 and Jupiter the next morning. The following morning, February 20, look at about 6 am to see the Moon and Saturn low near the horizon.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at <http://www.mdsci.org/pdf/Planetarium/STARMAP.pdf>

CROSBY RAMSEY MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY INFO 410-545-2999

Free public observing nights are held Friday evenings, weather permitting. Observatory hours are 5:30-9:00 p.m. The Observatory is also open Saturdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m., included in Maryland Science Center admission. Please call after 5:00 p.m. on Friday or after 12 noon on Saturday for observing conditions.



MERCURY

When:
Not visible, January
After sunset, early February

Where:
Low in West, February

Constellation:
Aquarius, February



VENUS

When:
After sunset

Where:
Southwest to West

Constellation:
Capricornus, Aquarius,
Pisces



MARS

When:
Morning sky

Where:
Southeast

Constellation:
Libra, Scorpius,
Ophiuchus, Sagittarius



JUPITER

When:
Not visible, early January
Before sunrise, late
January and February

Where:
Low in Southeast

Constellation:
Sagittarius



SATURN

When:
Not visible, January
Before sunrise, February

Where:
Low in Southeast,
February

Constellation:
Sagittarius