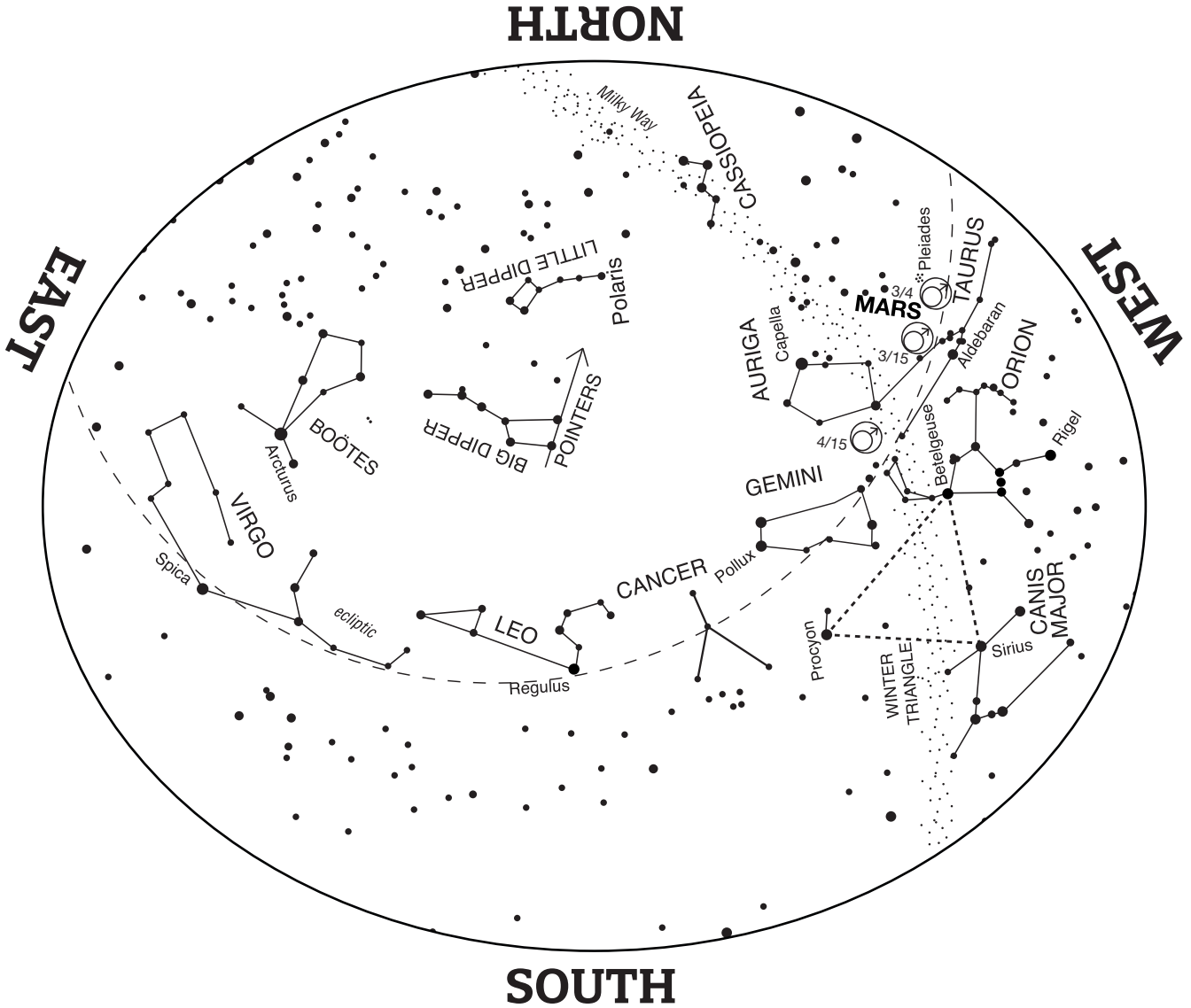


# Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2021



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:

- 11:30pm Mid-March EDT
- 9:30pm Mid-April EDT

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> or brighter magnitude star
- 2<sup>nd</sup> magnitude star
- 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude star
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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

MARCH/APRIL 2021

## IN THE MARCH/APRIL SKY

- Mar 3-6**  
Mars near Pleiades cluster  
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
-  **Mar 5**  
Last Quarter Moon
- Mar 6**  
Mercury at greatest elongation (morning)
- Mar 9**  
Moon near Saturn (morning)
- Mar 10**  
Moon near Jupiter and Mercury (morning)
-  **Mar 13**  
New Moon
- Mar 14**  
Daylight Saving Time begins  
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Mar 18**  
Moon near Pleiades cluster  
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Mar 19**  
Moon near Mars
- Mar 20**  
Vernal Equinox  
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
-  **Mar 21**  
First Quarter Moon
- Mar 22**  
Moon near Pollux
- Mar 26**  
Venus in conjunction with the Sun
-  **Mar 28**  
Full Moon
- Mar 29**  
Moon near Spica
-  **Apr 4**  
Last Quarter Moon
- Apr 6**  
Moon below Saturn (morning)
- Apr 7**  
Moon below Jupiter (morning)
-  **Apr 11**  
New Moon
- Apr 17**  
Moon near Mars  
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Apr 18**  
Mercury in conjunction with the Sun
- Apr 19**  
Moon near Pollux
-  **Apr 20**  
First Quarter Moon
- Apr 21/22**  
Moon near Regulus
- Apr 25**  
Moon near Spica
-  **Apr 26**  
Full Moon
- Apr 30**  
Uranus in conjunction with Sun

**MERCURY****When:**

Before sunrise, until late March

Not visible, April

**Where:**

Very low in East, March

**Constellation:**

Capricornus, Aquarius, Pisces

**VENUS****When:**

Not visible

**Where:**

Not visible

**Constellation:**

Not visible

**MARS****When:**

Evening sky

**Where:**

Southwest to West

**Constellation:**

Taurus, Gemini

**JUPITER****When:**

Before sunrise

**Where:**

East to Southeast

**Constellation:**

Aquarius

**SATURN****When:**

Before sunrise

**Where:**

East to Southeast

**Constellation:**

Capricornus

## CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Mars near Pleiades, March 3-6** - In early March, Mars is moving below the star cluster Pleiades. This cluster has a shape like a small question mark in the sky of six to seven stars, found in the constellation Taurus, the bull. The cluster can be found by taking Orion's belt stars and following them up in the sky past the red star Aldebaran. From night to night, Mars will be moving eastward below and left of the cluster.

**Daylight Saving Time begins, Sunday, March 14, 2:00 am** - Remember to turn your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

**Moon near Mars and Pleiades, Thursday, March 18 and Friday, March 19** - As the Moon is taking its trip around the Earth for the month it is making a close approach with Mars and the Pleiades a star cluster, in the constellation Taurus. Look to the west on March 18, the Moon will be below and left of the Pleiades star cluster. The following day, the Moon will be just to the left of Mars, which is above and to the right of the red star Aldebaran. Both Aldebaran and Mars will look like red colored dots in the sky, Aldebaran will be slightly brighter and twinkle, while Mars will not be twinkling.

**Vernal Equinox, Saturday, March 20, 5:22 am** - The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth! If you happen to be standing at the Earth's equator at noon during the Equinox, you will see the sun pass directly overhead.

**Moon near Mars, Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17** - The crescent Moon makes its closest approach to Mars for the month on April 17 and will also be close to Mars on April 16 in the constellation Taurus.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at <https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/>

## CROSBY RAMSEY MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY INFO 410-545-2999

For the health and safety of our guests, the Observatory is temporarily closed.