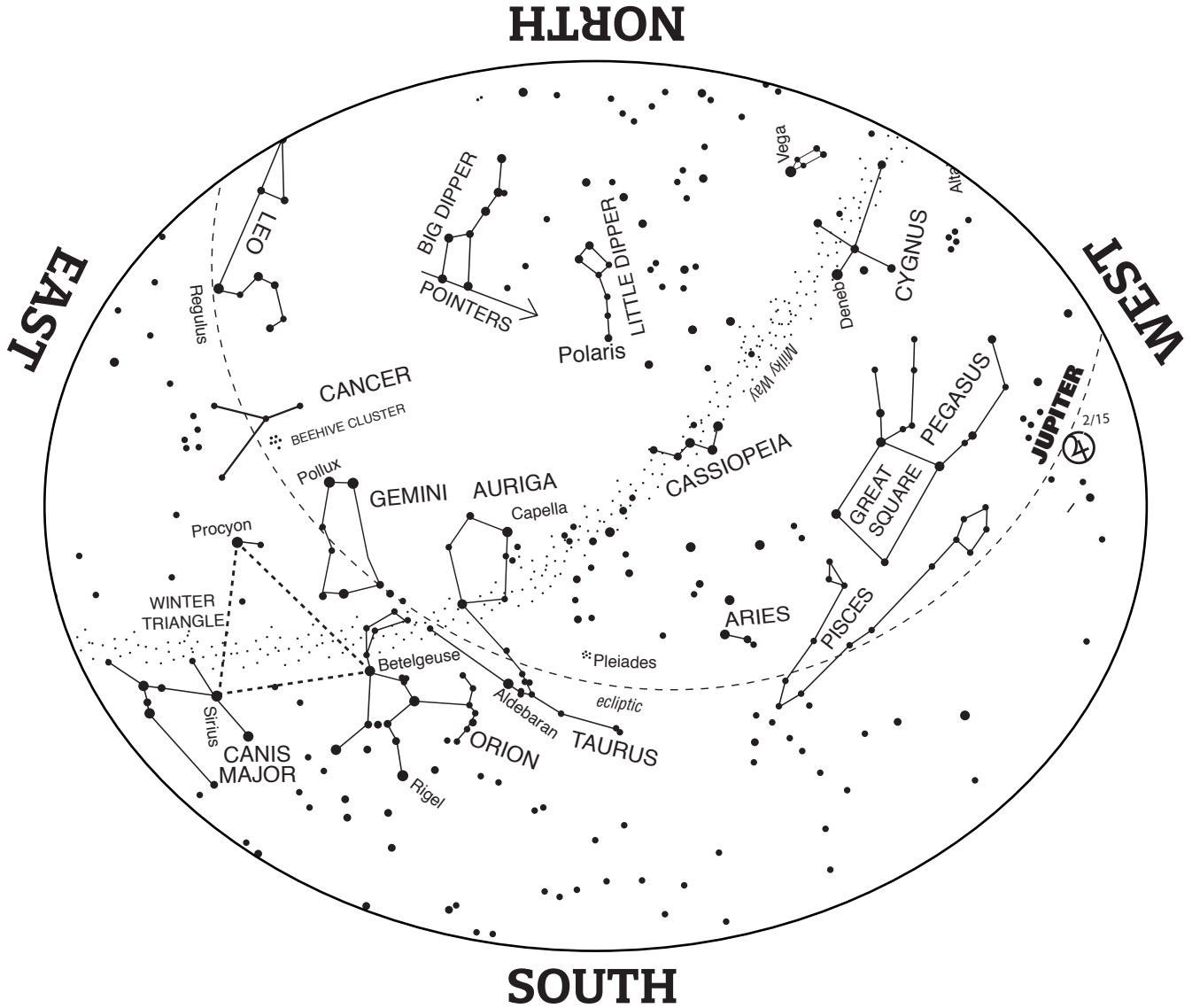


Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022



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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 2022

IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY

- **Jan 2**
New Moon
- Jan 3**
Quadrantid meteors peak
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
Moon near Mercury
- Jan 4**
Earth at Perihelion
Moon near Saturn
- Jan 5**
Moon near Jupiter
- Jan 7**
Mercury at greatest elongation
- Jan 8**
Inferior conjunction of Venus
with Sun
- ◐ **Jan 9**
First quarter Moon
- Jan 12**
Moon near the Pleiades
Mercury near Saturn
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Jan 13**
Moon near Aldebaran
- **Jan 17**
Full Moon near Pollux
- Jan 19**
Moon near Regulus
- Jan 23**
Inferior conjunction of Mercury
with Sun
- ◑ **Jan 25**
Last quarter Moon
- Jan 29**
Moon near Mars (morning)
- **Feb 1**
New Moon
- Feb 2**
Moon near Jupiter
- Feb 4**
Saturn conjunction with Sun
- ◐ **Feb 8**
First quarter Moon
- Feb 9**
Moon near Aldebaran
- Feb 12**
Mars and Venus (morning)
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Feb 13**
Moon near Pollux
- **Feb 16**
Full moon near Regulus
- Feb 20**
Moon near Spica
- ◑ **Feb 23**
Last quarter Moon
- Feb 27**
Moon near Mars and Venus
(morning)
(See *Celestial Highlights*)



MERCURY

When:
After sunset, early
January
Before sunrise,
mid-February

Where:
Southwest to West,
January
Southeast,
February

Constellation:
Capricornus, Sagittarius,
Capricornus



VENUS

When:
Not visible, January 1-14
Before sunrise, after
January 15

Where:
Low in Southeast,
after January 15

Constellation:
Sagittarius



MARS

When:
Morning sky

Where:
Southeast

Constellation:
Ophiuchus, Sagittarius



JUPITER

When:
After sunset, until mid-
February

Where:
Not visible, late February

Where:
Low in Southwest, until
mid-February

Constellation:
Not visible, late February
Aquarius



SATURN

When:
After sunset, early
January

Where:
Not visible, February

Where:
Low in Southwest, early
January

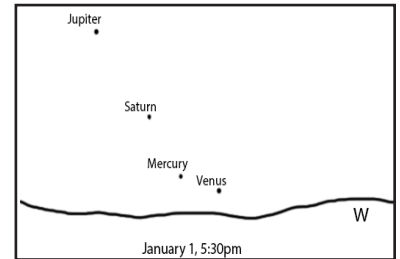
Constellation:
Not visible, February
Capricornus

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Quadrantid meteors peak January 3 before sunrise - 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 2 to morning of January 3 near the Big Dipper.

Mercury near Saturn, January 12 - After sunset on January 12 two bright objects can be seen near each other, Mercury and Saturn. Mercury will be closer to the horizon slightly dimmer than Saturn. The brightest dot higher off the horizon is Jupiter.

Planet and Moon groupings - After sunset during the first week of January, four planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury, and Venus are seen forming a line in the southwestern sky. Bright Jupiter will be the highest of the four and at the top of the line, with Venus as the brightest planet lowest in the sky closest to the horizon, Saturn, left and above Mercury are seen in between these two bright planets. (See picture)



The Moon moves through this group of planets visiting each one in the sky from January 3 to 5. Mars and Venus are seen in the morning sky above the south eastern horizon from the end of January and into February with Venus moving closer to Mars. Venus catches up with Mars on February 12. Then the two of them keep moving closer together until they are closest in March. Venus will be the brightest of the two and Mars has a reddish color. The waning crescent Moon visits the pair on February 27.

IN THE WINTER SKY

Winter Circle of Stars - The winter sky holds bright stars and familiar constellations that create a circular pattern in the sky. The stars of the "Winter Circle", can be traced in a clockwise spiral starting in the center with Betelgeuse then moving down and around to Rigel, Sirius, Procyon, Pollux and Capella to Aldebaran. As you trace the circle in the sky compare the brightness and color of the stars. The Moon passes through the Winter Circle a few times during January and February.

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