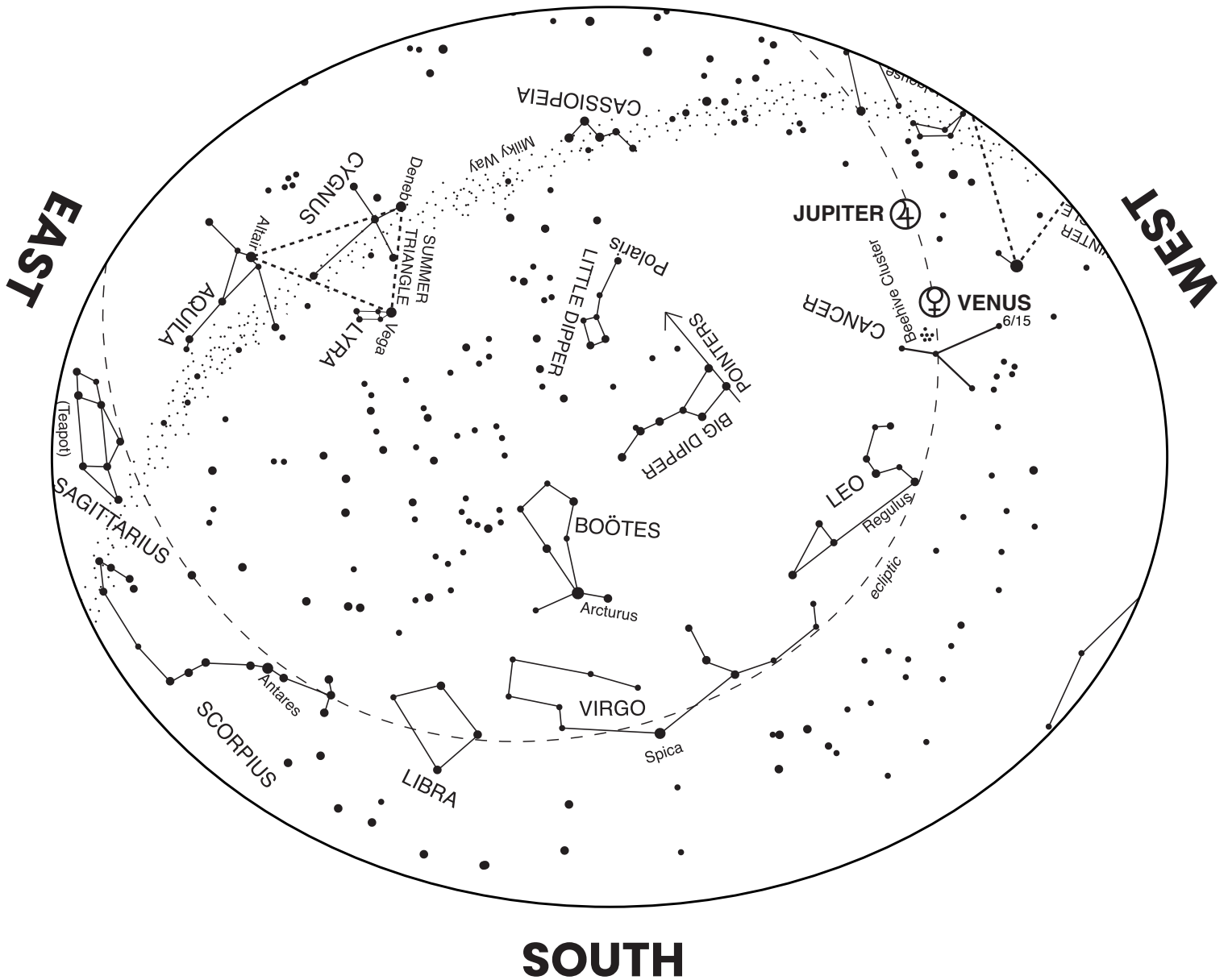


Starmap

MAY/JUNE 2026

NORTH



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:

12:30am Mid-May EDT
10:30pm Mid-June EDT

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

MAY/JUNE 2026

IN THE MAY/JUNE SKY

- **May 1**
Full Moon
- **May 6**
Eta-Aquariid meteor shower peaks
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- ◐ **May 9**
Last Quarter Moon
- **May 13**
Moon near Saturn
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- **May 16**
New Moon
- **May 20**
Moon near Jupiter
- ◐ **May 26**
First Quarter Moon
- **May 31**
Blue Moon
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- ◑ **June 8**
Last Quarter Moon
- **June 9**
Conjunction of Jupiter and Venus
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- **June 10**
Moon near Saturn
Mercury at highest altitude
- **June 14**
New Moon
- **June 17**
Moon near Jupiter and Venus
- ◐ **June 21**
First Quarter Moon
Summer Solstice
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- **June 29**
Full Moon

EVENTS

Telescope Training Workshop – Do you have a telescope at home but aren't quite sure how to use it? Grab your telescope and join us at the Maryland Science Center for our hands-on Telescope Training workshops on May 23 and June 27. This 30-minute one-on-one workshop is perfect for people who are eager to learn how to set up, align, and confidently start using their own telescope.

Learn more and register at:

<https://www.mdsci.org/events/telescope-training/>

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Eta-Aquariid Meteor Shower – In the early morning look east to the constellation Aquarius for a chance to see the Eta-Aquariid meteor shower, with an average of 20 meteors per hour. This meteor shower started on April 19 and lasts until May 28, reaching its peak number of meteors around May 6. The bright waning gibbous moon will make observation challenging.

Planet and Moon Groupings – Conjunctions occur when two celestial objects appear very close to each other in the night sky. A crescent moon can be seen just above Saturn on the eastern horizon just before sunrise on May 13 and June 10. The Moon will pass Jupiter in the western evening sky on May 20. Jupiter and Venus will shine brightly together in Gemini on June 9, and will be joined by the Moon on June 17.

Blue Moon, May 31 – “Blue Moon” is a term for a second full moon within one calendar month. One lunar phase cycle is 29.5 days, making this phenomenon possible but rare. Blue moons occur once every two to three years. Note that the full moon will retain its normal gray color.

Summer Solstice, June 21 – The solstice marks the beginning of summer for the Northern Hemisphere with the longest hours of daylight and the shortest night. The solstice occurs when the North Pole is at its greatest tilt towards the sun.

The Observatory at the Maryland Science Center info:
Safe solar viewing is offered Saturdays from 10:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm, weather permitting (entry included with Science Center admission).

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



MERCURY

When:
Just after sunset, early June

Where:
Western horizon

Constellation:
Gemini



VENUS

When:
After sunset

Where:
Western horizon

Constellation:
Taurus, Gemini, Cancer



MARS

When:
Not visible

Where:
Not visible

Constellation:
Not visible



JUPITER

When:
Before midnight until late June

Where:
Western sky

Constellation:
Gemini



SATURN

When:
Early morning

Where:
Eastern sky

Constellation:
Pisces