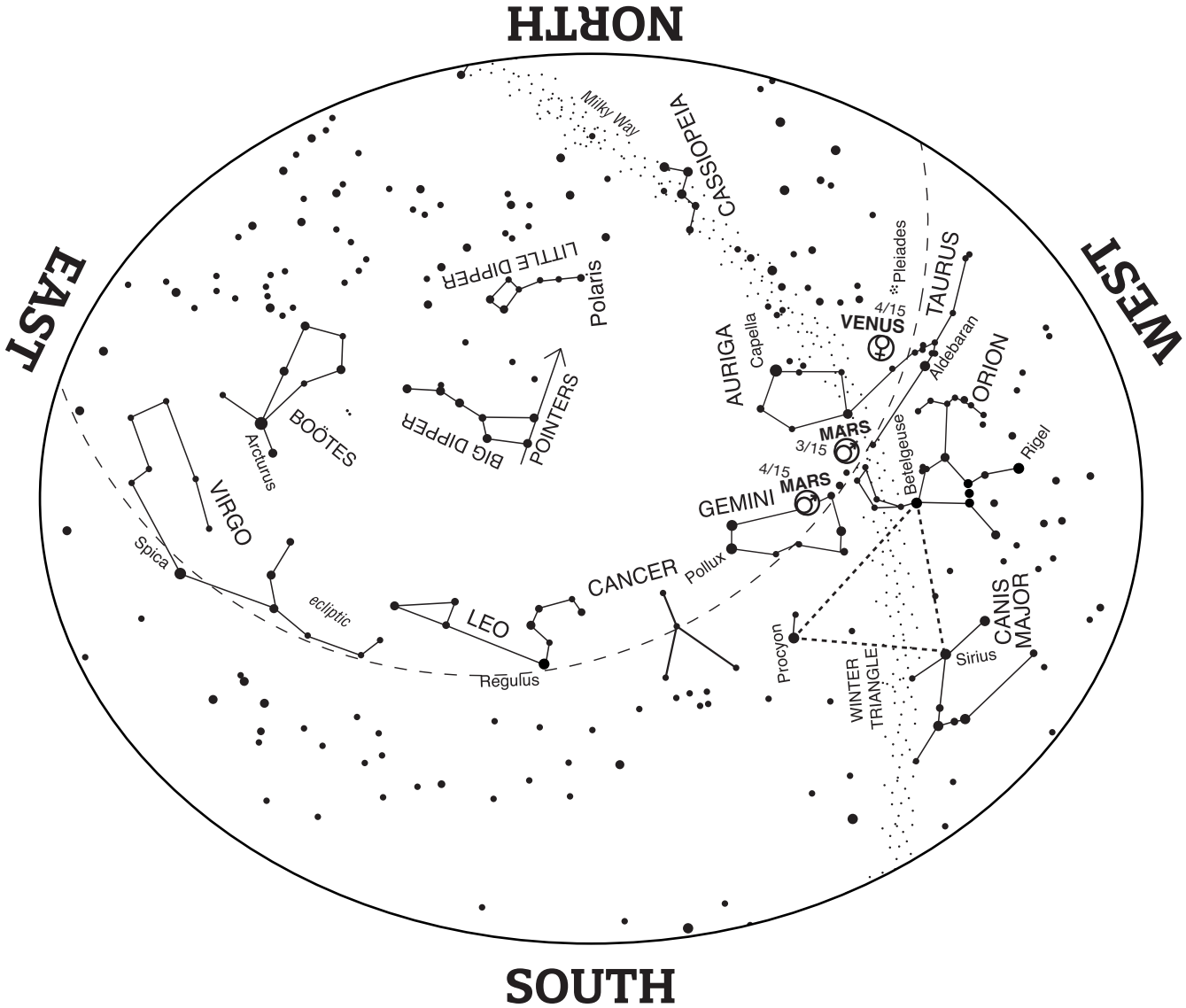


Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2023



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

- 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

MARCH/APRIL 2023

IN THE MARCH/APRIL SKY

March 1Venus near Jupiter
(see Celestial Highlights)**March 2**

Moon near Pollux

March 5

Moon near Regulus

**March 7**

Full Moon

March 9

Moon near Spica

March 12Daylight Saving Time begins
(see Celestial Highlights)**March 14**Last Quarter Moon
near Antares (morning)**March 15**Neptune in conjunction
with Sun**March 17**Mercury in conjunction
with the Sun**March 19**Moon near Saturn
(morning)**March 20**Vernal Equinox
(see Celestial Highlights)**March 21**

New Moon

March 22Moon near Jupiter
(see Celestial Highlights)**March 23/24**

Moon near Venus

March 25

Moon near Pleiades cluster

March 27

Mercury near Jupiter

**March 28**First Quarter Moon near
Mars**March 29**

Moon near Castor and Pollux

**April 6**

Full Moon near Spica

April 10

Venus near Pleiades cluster

April 11Mercury at greatest elongation
Jupiter in conjunction with
Sun**April 13**

Last Quarter Moon

April 16

Moon near Saturn (morning)

**April 20**

New Moon

April 23

Moon near Venus

April 25

Moon near Mars

April 26

Moon near Pollux

**April 27**

First Quarter Moon

April 29

Moon near Regulus

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Daylight Saving Time begins, Sunday, March 12, 2:00 am - Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

Vernal Equinox, Monday, March 20, 5:20 pm -

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.

Planet and Moon groupings -

Conjunction means that two objects appear in the same place in the sky as seen from Earth. Planets in conjunction with the Sun are not visible. Besides being in conjunction with the Sun, planets are also seen partnered with the Moon or another planet in the sky. When planets are at their nearest, from Earth's perspective, astronomers call it an appulse. On March 1, Jupiter and Venus are at their closest as seen from Earth. Look in the west after sunset for two bright dots that don't twinkle, Venus will be the brighter of the two. After sunset on March 22 a very thin crescent Moon passes near Jupiter in the western sky, followed by Venus on March 23 and 24. High in the southwest sky on March 27 and 28, the Moon is by Mars. Also on March 27, low in the west, Mercury and Jupiter are together in the sky, with Jupiter appearing slightly brighter than Mercury. April 6-13, Venus makes its way past the Pleiades cluster, reaching its closest on April 10. In April, the Moon goes by Mercury on April 20, Venus on April 22/23 and Mars on April 25.

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



MERCURY

When:Not visible, until March 25
After sunset, until April 18**Where:**Not visible, until
March 25
Very low in West,
until April 18**Constellation:**Aquarius, Pisces,
Cetus, Pisces, Aries

VENUS

When:Early evening, March
Evening sky, April**Where:**

West

Constellation:

Pisces, Aries, Taurus



MARS

When:

Evening Sky

Where:Southwest to Northwest,
March

West to Northwest, April

Constellation:

Taurus, Gemini



JUPITER

When:After sunset, March
Not visible, April**Where:**Low in west, March
Not visible, April**Constellation:**

Pisces



SATURN

When:Before sunrise after
mid-March**Where:**

East to Southeast

Constellation:

Aquarius