

1
00:00:07,900 --> 00:00:11,460
Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects

2
00:00:11,460 --> 00:00:14,960
planets, and events,

3
00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:17,219
Tonight's Sky,

4
00:00:17,219 --> 00:00:24,779
Highlights of the April Sky

5
00:00:41,560 --> 00:00:45,740
With a keen eye and unobstructed view to the west,

6
00:00:45,740 --> 00:00:48,400
you might be able to find Mercury

7
00:00:48,399 --> 00:00:52,259
soon after sunset in early April.

8
00:00:52,259 --> 00:00:54,820
Act fast, though, because Mercury

9
00:00:54,820 --> 00:00:59,840
won't remain above the horizon for long.

10
00:01:15,739 --> 00:01:19,299
Mars appears a little higher in the western sky

11
00:01:19,299 --> 00:01:24,799
during the early evenings.

12
00:01:24,799 --> 00:01:26,099
With a telescope,

13
00:01:26,099 --> 00:01:29,939
you could spy some of the planet's dark features

14
00:01:29,939 --> 00:01:35,259
or its bright polar cap.

15
00:01:43,500 --> 00:01:47,180
Jupiter is shining in the eastern sky by nightfall

16
00:01:47,180 --> 00:01:52,640
and remains up all night long.

17
00:01:52,640 --> 00:01:56,980
The solar system's largest planet sports cloud bands

18
00:01:56,980 --> 00:02:05,140
that are easily revealed by a small telescope.

19
00:02:20,840 --> 00:02:24,099
Late in the evening, high in the northern sky

20
00:02:24,099 --> 00:02:30,579
lies the Great Bear, Ursa Major.

21
00:02:30,580 --> 00:02:33,860
The constellation of Ursa Major contains the

22
00:02:33,860 --> 00:02:38,400
well-known star pattern called the Big Dipper.

23
00:02:38,400 --> 00:02:42,719
It resembles a large drinking cup with a handle.

24
00:02:42,719 --> 00:02:45,780
The two stars that make up the front side of the cup

25
00:02:45,780 --> 00:02:48,060
are called "pointer stars"

26
00:02:48,060 --> 00:02:55,360
because they point toward the star Polaris, ...

27
00:02:55,360 --> 00:03:02,280
... also known as the North Star.

28
00:03:05,340 --> 00:03:07,740
The Big Dipper overflows with

29

00:03:07,740 --> 00:03:15,240
interesting stars and deep-sky objects.

30
00:03:19,659 --> 00:03:24,659
The stars Mizar & Alcor make up a double-star system

31
00:03:24,659 --> 00:03:28,180
that can be seen without a telescope.

32
00:03:28,180 --> 00:03:33,280
In ancient times, when Mizar & Alcor were even closer

33
00:03:33,280 --> 00:03:39,020
they were used as a test of keen eyesight.

34
00:03:39,020 --> 00:03:44,820
M81 and M82 are a magnificent pair of galaxies,

35
00:03:44,819 --> 00:03:48,840
showpieces of the northern night sky.

36
00:03:48,840 --> 00:03:52,099
M82 has an irregular shape,

37
00:03:52,099 --> 00:04:00,120
bestowed by a collision with its larger neighbor, M81.

38
00:04:14,340 --> 00:04:18,139
Turning to the south, we see Leo, the Lion,

39
00:04:18,139 --> 00:04:20,579
heralding the coming of spring.

40
00:04:20,579 --> 00:04:23,779
In Greek mythology, Leo is the great

41
00:04:23,779 --> 00:04:26,659
beast slain by Hercules.

42
00:04:26,660 --> 00:04:30,860
The star Denebola, which in Arabic means "tail,"

43
00:04:30,860 --> 00:04:33,720

represents exactly that.

44

00:04:33,720 --> 00:04:39,220

The bright star Regulus is the heart of the Lion.

45

00:04:39,220 --> 00:04:43,440

Leo has several galaxies in his belly.

46

00:04:43,439 --> 00:04:51,939

M65, M66, and NGC 3628 make up the "Leo Triplet,"

47

00:04:51,939 --> 00:04:54,519

a lovely grouping of galaxies

48

00:04:54,519 --> 00:04:57,019

easily seen with a telescope.

49

00:04:57,019 --> 00:04:59,740

Close by is another group.

50

00:04:59,740 --> 00:05:08,000

M95 and M96 are large spiral galaxies.

51

00:05:13,420 --> 00:05:16,860

Between the Big Dipper and the head of Leo

52

00:05:16,860 --> 00:05:19,460

are three pairs of bright stars

53

00:05:19,459 --> 00:05:22,019

known to ancient Arab astronomers as

54

00:05:22,019 --> 00:05:28,879

"The Three Leaps of the Gazelle."

55

00:05:56,019 --> 00:06:04,560

Saturn rises into the southeastern sky after midnight.

56

00:06:04,560 --> 00:06:11,600

Use a telescope to admire the planet's majestic rings.

57

00:06:20,819 --> 00:06:28,459

Venus makes a brief appearance just before sunrise.

58
00:06:31,300 --> 00:06:34,660
You'll need a clear view toward the eastern horizon

59
00:06:34,660 --> 00:06:41,760
to spot the planet before the sky brightens.

60
00:07:01,439 --> 00:07:03,500
The Lyrid meteor shower will peak

61
00:07:03,500 --> 00:07:12,720
in the early morning hours of April 22nd.

62
00:07:12,720 --> 00:07:16,920
Expect to see up to 20 bright meteors per hour

63
00:07:16,920 --> 00:07:20,439
after midnight.

64
00:07:24,300 --> 00:07:31,500
The night sky is always a celestial showcase.

65
00:07:31,500 --> 00:07:37,639
Explore its wonders from your own backyard.