

1
00:00:08,160 --> 00:00:14,730
Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,
planets, and events.

2
00:00:14,730 --> 00:00:21,100
Tonight's Sky, highlights of the
December sky.

3
00:00:40,100 --> 00:00:46,000
After the Sun sets on these short December
days, you can find Venus and Mars

4
00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:53,269
hanging out in the darkening southwestern sky.

5
00:00:53,270 --> 00:01:00,300
The two planets will move closer together
as the month progresses.

6
00:01:12,500 --> 00:01:19,200
Two prominent constellations in the December
night sky represent notable individuals

7
00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:24,000
of ancient Greek mythology.

8
00:01:26,269 --> 00:01:33,079
The great hero Perseus holds the head of Medusa
the Gorgon.

9
00:01:33,079 --> 00:01:43,400
Located in Perseus is M34, an open star cluster
about 1,400 light-years away from us.

10
00:01:49,209 --> 00:01:54,500
Open star clusters are groups of young stars
that all formed at the same time

11
00:01:54,500 --> 00:01:59,239
within a large cloud of dust and gas.

12
00:01:59,239 --> 00:02:07,000
Look for it with the naked eye or with binoculars
in a dark sky.

13
00:02:19,120 --> 00:02:27,689
Queen Cassiopeia was punished for her conceit
and vanity by being tied to her throne.

14
00:02:31,300 --> 00:02:38,860
Cassiopeia's "M" or "W" shape makes
this constellation easy to identify.

15
00:02:38,860 --> 00:02:44,300
Eta Cassiopeiae is a wonderful and
colorful double star.

16
00:02:44,300 --> 00:02:52,870
Use binoculars or a small telescope to discern
its gold and blue hues.

17
00:02:54,500 --> 00:03:05,300
M103 in Cassiopeia is a fine open star cluster
with a prominent red star near the center.

18
00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:15,000
Its fan shape is evident in binoculars.

19
00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:20,699
Lying between Cassiopeia and Perseus is the
lovely Double Cluster.

20
00:03:20,699 --> 00:03:25,509
This pair of open star clusters is easy to
see with binoculars.

21
00:03:26,500 --> 00:03:32,699
The Double Cluster resembles a handful of
diamonds scattered on black velvet,

22
00:03:32,699 --> 00:03:38,000
with a ruby in between.

23
00:03:52,199 --> 00:03:59,000
Jupiter rises into the southeastern sky well
before the Sun appears.

24
00:04:06,780 --> 00:04:15,500
Aim a telescope at the giant planet to spy its dark
cloud bands and a few of its moons.

25

00:04:28,399 --> 00:04:34,699

The mid-December night sky hosts the lovely Geminid meteor shower.

26

00:04:34,699 --> 00:04:41,500

The shower peaks on the night of December 13th to the 14th.

27

00:04:41,500 --> 00:04:50,000

This year, however, a full moon interferes, making dim meteors hard to see.

28

00:04:52,600 --> 00:04:56,600

The night sky is always a celestial showcase.

29

00:04:56,600 --> 00:05:02,000

Explore its wonders from your own backyard.