

1  
00:00:06,400 --> 00:00:10,280  
Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,

2  
00:00:10,279 --> 00:00:14,660  
planets, and events,

3  
00:00:14,660 --> 00:00:35,439  
Tonight's Sky, highlights of the December Sky

4  
00:00:35,439 --> 00:00:38,939  
Two prominent constellations in the December night sky

5  
00:00:38,939 --> 00:00:41,820  
represent notable individuals of

6  
00:00:41,820 --> 00:00:49,119  
ancient Greek mythology.

7  
00:00:49,119 --> 00:00:53,539  
The great hero Perseus holds the head of Medusa

8  
00:00:53,539 --> 00:00:55,759  
the Gorgon.

9  
00:00:55,759 --> 00:01:01,339  
Located in Perseus is M34, an open star cluster

10  
00:01:01,340 --> 00:01:11,159  
about 1,400 light-years away from us.

11  
00:01:11,159 --> 00:01:14,780  
Open star clusters are groups of young stars

12  
00:01:14,780 --> 00:01:17,239  
that all formed at the same time

13  
00:01:17,239 --> 00:01:21,679  
within a large cloud of dust and gas.

14  
00:01:21,680 --> 00:01:23,740  
Look for it with the naked eye

15

00:01:23,739 --> 00:01:31,280  
or with binoculars in a dark sky.

16

00:01:41,359 --> 00:01:45,000  
Queen Cassiopeia was punished for her conceit

17

00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:54,019  
and vanity by being tied to her throne.

18

00:01:54,019 --> 00:01:57,060  
Cassiopeia's "M" or "W" shape

19

00:01:57,060 --> 00:02:02,600  
makes this constellation easy to identify.

20

00:02:02,599 --> 00:02:06,500  
Eta Cassiopeiae is a wonderful and colorful

21

00:02:06,500 --> 00:02:10,439  
double star. Use binoculars or a small telescope

22

00:02:10,439 --> 00:02:16,460  
to discern its gold and blue hues.

23

00:02:16,460 --> 00:02:22,000  
M103 in Cassiopeia is a fine open star cluster

24

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:29,759  
with a prominent red star near the center.

25

00:02:31,520 --> 00:02:38,260  
Its fan shape is evident in binoculars.

26

00:02:38,259 --> 00:02:41,719  
Lying between Cassiopeia and Perseus

27

00:02:41,719 --> 00:02:44,439  
is the lovely Double Cluster.

28

00:02:44,439 --> 00:02:47,919  
This pair of open star clusters is easy to see

29

00:02:47,919 --> 00:02:49,780  
with binoculars.

30  
00:02:49,780 --> 00:02:54,120  
The Double Cluster resembles a handful of diamonds

31  
00:02:54,120 --> 00:03:02,360  
scattered on black velvet, with a ruby in between.

32  
00:03:11,419 --> 00:03:15,759  
Mars and Jupiter ascend into the southeastern sky

33  
00:03:15,759 --> 00:03:21,219  
well before the Sun appears.

34  
00:03:26,840 --> 00:03:30,159  
Aim a telescope at the planets to get a better look

35  
00:03:30,159 --> 00:03:37,159  
at their features.

36  
00:03:40,439 --> 00:03:43,740  
Late in the month, dim Mercury peeks above

37  
00:03:43,740 --> 00:03:51,960  
the horizon just before dawn.

38  
00:03:56,879 --> 00:04:00,079  
If you have a telescope that's powerful enough,

39  
00:04:00,080 --> 00:04:09,120  
you might be able to identify the small planet's phase.

40  
00:04:16,279 --> 00:04:20,059  
The mid-December night sky hosts the lovely

41  
00:04:20,060 --> 00:04:22,920  
Geminid meteor shower.

42  
00:04:22,920 --> 00:04:26,520  
The shower peaks on the night of December 13th

43  
00:04:26,519 --> 00:04:29,599

to the 14th.

44

00:04:29,600 --> 00:04:34,000

Under a dark sky, you could see as many as 60

45

00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:37,779

colorful meteors per hour.

46

00:04:37,779 --> 00:04:44,379

The night sky is always a celestial showcase.

47

00:04:44,379 --> 00:04:53,500

Explore its wonders from your own backyard.