

1  
00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:09,780

Your guide to constellations,

2  
00:00:09,779 --> 00:00:14,719

deep-sky objects, planets, and events: Tonight's Sky.

3  
00:00:14,720 --> 00:00:20,560

Highlights of the May sky:

4  
00:00:41,259 --> 00:00:45,559

At nightfall, Venus hangs like a blazing diamond

5  
00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:49,520

in the western sky.

6  
00:00:52,060 --> 00:00:54,940

A backyard telescope reveals only its

7  
00:00:54,939 --> 00:01:01,959

sunlight-reflecting clouds, which hide its rocky surface.

8  
00:01:11,819 --> 00:01:13,719

A second blazing planet

9  
00:01:13,719 --> 00:01:16,980

hangs over the southeastern horizon.

10  
00:01:16,980 --> 00:01:20,900

Jupiter reaches opposition on May 8.

11  
00:01:20,900 --> 00:01:23,780

It lies opposite the Sun in our sky,

12  
00:01:23,780 --> 00:01:29,780

rises at sunset, and is visible all night.

13  
00:01:32,959 --> 00:01:35,959

A small telescope shows its cloud bands

14  
00:01:35,959 --> 00:01:41,000

and its four large moons.

15  
00:01:50,299 --> 00:01:53,439  
Looking toward the south, we've turned away from the

16  
00:01:53,439 --> 00:01:56,560  
crowded center of our Milky Way Galaxy.

17  
00:01:56,560 --> 00:02:00,760  
Thus, we see farther into the universe.

18  
00:02:00,760 --> 00:02:03,500  
The large constellation Virgo

19  
00:02:03,500 --> 00:02:09,280  
fills the southern sky in the late evening.

20  
00:02:09,280 --> 00:02:12,699  
One of the zodiacal constellations of ancient times,

21  
00:02:12,699 --> 00:02:21,539  
Virgo honors the life-giving virtues of women.

22  
00:02:21,539 --> 00:02:23,639  
Using a pair of binoculars,

23  
00:02:23,639 --> 00:02:27,179  
visit the Virgo Cluster of Galaxies.

24  
00:02:27,180 --> 00:02:30,700  
These tiny smudges of light are galaxies,

25  
00:02:30,699 --> 00:02:33,339  
far away from our own Milky Way,

26  
00:02:33,340 --> 00:02:42,060  
each aglow with the light of billions of stars.

27  
00:02:42,060 --> 00:02:45,180  
The Sombrero Galaxy, M104,

28  
00:02:45,180 --> 00:02:48,560  
lies in the southern part of Virgo.

29

00:02:48,560 --> 00:02:52,659  
Its dark dust lane makes it look like a large hat,

30  
00:02:52,659 --> 00:02:57,319  
hence its name.

31  
00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:09,840  
Two smaller constellations lie above Virgo.

32  
00:03:09,840 --> 00:03:13,420  
Coma Berenices honors a queen who gave her

33  
00:03:13,419 --> 00:03:16,599  
long hair to the gods to ensure her husband's

34  
00:03:16,599 --> 00:03:21,759  
safe return from war.

35  
00:03:29,659 --> 00:03:32,960  
M64, a spiral galaxy,

36  
00:03:32,960 --> 00:03:39,780  
can be found tangled in Berenice's Hair.

37  
00:04:04,120 --> 00:04:06,680  
Canes Venatici represents the

38  
00:04:06,680 --> 00:04:12,080  
hunting dogs of the gods.

39  
00:04:19,540 --> 00:04:24,200  
The brightest star in Canes Venatici is Cor Caroli,

40  
00:04:24,199 --> 00:04:25,680  
the Heart of Charles,

41  
00:04:25,680 --> 00:04:33,160  
named for King Charles I of England.

42  
00:04:39,980 --> 00:04:43,040  
M51, in Canes Venatici,

43  
00:04:43,040 --> 00:04:46,540

is known as the Whirlpool Galaxy.

44  
00:04:46,540 --> 00:04:55,819  
It is one of the most beautiful face-on spirals in the sky.

45  
00:05:13,560 --> 00:05:16,680  
By month's end, the planet Saturn is

46  
00:05:16,680 --> 00:05:20,139  
rising in the southeast around midnight.

47  
00:05:20,139 --> 00:05:24,240  
Mars, growing ever brighter as the year progresses,

48  
00:05:24,240 --> 00:05:29,300  
follows not far behind.

49  
00:05:29,300 --> 00:05:32,319  
Saturn's iconic rings are visible

50  
00:05:32,319 --> 00:05:34,800  
even in small telescopes.

51  
00:05:34,800 --> 00:05:36,939  
As Mars gets closer to Earth,

52  
00:05:36,939 --> 00:05:44,540  
large-scale surface details may become visible.

53  
00:05:52,720 --> 00:05:56,380  
Just before sunrise during the first part of the month,

54  
00:05:56,379 --> 00:05:59,439  
diminutive Mercury may be seen

55  
00:05:59,439 --> 00:06:04,920  
just above the eastern horizon.

56  
00:06:10,660 --> 00:06:14,700  
Because it is so small and so close to the rising Sun,

57  
00:06:14,699 --> 00:06:16,819  
spotting Mercury becomes more

58

00:06:16,819 --> 00:06:22,680

difficult as the month progresses.

59

00:06:31,959 --> 00:06:35,539

The annual Eta Aquarid meteor shower returns

60

00:06:35,540 --> 00:06:40,800

this month.

61

00:06:40,800 --> 00:06:43,579

On the night of May 6 to 7,

62

00:06:43,579 --> 00:06:47,359

expect to see up to 10 meteors per hour.

63

00:06:47,360 --> 00:06:53,040

Look for them shooting from the east after midnight.

64

00:06:53,040 --> 00:07:00,000

The night sky is always a celestial showcase.

65

00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:06,819

Explore its wonders from your own backyard.