

TONIGHT'S SKY



March
2017

1
00:00:07,979 --> 00:00:11,519
Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,

2
00:00:11,519 --> 00:00:16,319
planets, and events.

3
00:00:16,320 --> 00:00:23,800
Tonight's Sky, highlights of the March Sky.

4
00:00:35,620 --> 00:00:37,900
For the first half of March,

5
00:00:37,900 --> 00:00:45,340
Mars and Venus appear in the western sky after sunset.

6
00:00:53,120 --> 00:00:56,200
Catch them early, because late in the month,

7
00:00:56,260 --> 00:01:02,700
Venus slips below the horizon before twilight ends.

8
00:01:07,400 --> 00:01:10,000
During the final week of March, though,

9
00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:12,560
Mercury takes the place of Venus

10
00:01:12,560 --> 00:01:17,520
low above the western horizon.

11
00:01:21,400 --> 00:01:23,980
Try to glimpse the small planet

12
00:01:23,980 --> 00:01:29,220
before it disappears from view.

13
00:01:37,500 --> 00:01:38,880

In the late evening,

14

00:01:38,880 --> 00:01:44,940

watch for Jupiter rising in the east.

15

00:01:48,540 --> 00:01:52,140

A telescope will reveal the gas planet's dark

16

00:01:52,140 --> 00:01:53,570

cloud bands.

17

00:01:53,570 --> 00:02:00,850

A large telescope might reveal the Great Red Spot.

18

00:02:14,740 --> 00:02:17,240

As the brilliant stars of winter

19

00:02:17,240 --> 00:02:18,880

progress toward the west,

20

00:02:18,880 --> 00:02:22,420

the constellations of spring make their appearance.

21

00:02:22,460 --> 00:02:26,360

Two March constellations
derived from Greek mythology,

22

00:02:26,360 --> 00:02:30,140

Gemini and Cancer, lie in the zodiac.

23

00:02:30,140 --> 00:02:33,300

The zodiac is the name for the band of sky

24

00:02:33,320 --> 00:02:35,540

through which the Sun, Moon,

25

00:02:35,540 --> 00:02:38,500

and planets appear to travel.

26

00:02:38,510 --> 00:02:41,740

The Gemini twins lie high overhead.

27

00:02:41,740 --> 00:02:44,180

They were among Jason's Argonauts,

28

00:02:44,180 --> 00:02:51,100

who sailed the seas searching for the Golden Fleece.

29

00:02:58,900 --> 00:03:02,560

The two bright stars are the heads of the brothers,

30

00:03:02,560 --> 00:03:07,380

Castor and Pollux.

31

00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:12,220

A fuzzy patch lies near the "feet" of the Gemini twins.

32

00:03:12,220 --> 00:03:14,080

Called M35,

33

00:03:14,080 --> 00:03:20,480

it is a pretty cluster of several hundred stars.

34

00:03:37,420 --> 00:03:40,440

Cancer is often identified as a crab

35

00:03:40,440 --> 00:03:46,080

but has also been seen as a lobster or crayfish.

36

00:03:46,080 --> 00:03:47,720

In Greek mythology,

37

00:03:47,720 --> 00:03:50,960

Cancer was placed in the heavens by Hera,

38

00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:54,780
wife of Zeus, to immortalize its tenacious

39
00:03:54,780 --> 00:03:59,260
but futile battle with Hercules.

40
00:04:01,340 --> 00:04:04,840
It is a much dimmer constellation than Gemini,

41
00:04:04,840 --> 00:04:08,480
and hard to see in light-polluted skies.

42
00:04:08,480 --> 00:04:15,300
Within Cancer lies the lovely Beehive Cluster.

43
00:04:15,300 --> 00:04:20,820
Ancient stargazers called it "the cloudy
star."

44
00:04:20,829 --> 00:04:24,629
This large cluster contains hundreds of stars

45
00:04:24,629 --> 00:04:31,469
and lies about 577 light-years away from us.

46
00:04:45,860 --> 00:04:52,820
Saturn appears in the southeast in the pre-dawn hours.

47
00:05:06,160 --> 00:05:12,400
Use a telescope to spy its famous rings.