



**TONIGHT'S  
SKY**

**October  
2017**

1

00:00:06,920 --> 00:00:10,460

Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,

2

00:00:10,460 --> 00:00:15,660

planets, and events.

3

00:00:15,660 --> 00:00:23,760

Tonight's Sky, highlights of the October Sky.

4

00:00:34,240 --> 00:00:43,700

Saturn is the highlight of early evenings in October.

5

00:00:52,680 --> 00:00:55,760

Find it shining in the southwestern sky,

6

00:00:55,760 --> 00:01:04,080

then use a telescope to spy its beautiful rings.

7

00:01:22,140 --> 00:01:25,980

Pegasus, the great winged horse of Greek mythology,

8

00:01:25,980 --> 00:01:29,800

prances across the autumn night sky.

9

00:01:29,800 --> 00:01:34,460

His body is denoted by a large area of stars known as

10

00:01:34,460 --> 00:01:38,360

the "Great Square."

11

00:01:38,360 --> 00:01:44,040

Pegasus hosts 51-Pegasi, the first Sun-like star

12

00:01:44,040 --> 00:01:47,220

known to have an extra-solar planet.

13

00:01:47,220 --> 00:01:51,380

The brightest corner of the Great Square, Alpheratz,

14

00:01:51,380 --> 00:01:53,780

is also the brightest star in the

15

00:01:53,780 --> 00:01:58,680

constellation Andromeda.

16

00:02:04,720 --> 00:02:08,960

In Greek mythology, this princess was chained to a rock

17

00:02:08,960 --> 00:02:12,820

near the sea to appease a sea monster.

18

00:02:12,820 --> 00:02:17,000

Within Andromeda's boundaries, look for  
M31,

19

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:22,260

the Andromeda Galaxy, an island of billions of stars.

20

00:02:22,260 --> 00:02:24,240

On a clear, dark night

21

00:02:24,240 --> 00:02:28,120

it appears as a faint smudge of light.

22

00:02:28,120 --> 00:02:32,300

Approximately 2.5 million light-years away,

23

00:02:32,300 --> 00:02:36,360

M31 is the closest spiral galaxy

24

00:02:36,360 --> 00:02:40,040

to our own Milky Way Galaxy and the most

25

00:02:40,040 --> 00:02:43,620

distant object you can see with your eyes alone.

26  
00:02:43,620 --> 00:02:48,220  
Binoculars and small telescopes reveal M31's

27  
00:02:48,220 --> 00:02:51,520  
glowing nucleus and spiral arms.

28  
00:02:51,520 --> 00:02:55,380  
A smaller companion galaxy, M110,

29  
00:02:55,380 --> 00:02:59,760  
appears as a faint spot near the large galaxy.

30  
00:02:59,760 --> 00:03:04,160  
The Andromeda Galaxy is slowly pulling in,

31  
00:03:04,160 --> 00:03:06,600  
and will eventually consume,

32  
00:03:06,600 --> 00:03:16,240  
another one of its small companion galaxies, M32.

33  
00:03:23,180 --> 00:03:27,540  
In early October, Mars and Venus rise together

34  
00:03:27,540 --> 00:03:34,260  
in the eastern sky before dawn.

35  
00:03:38,740 --> 00:03:41,940  
The two planets appear to converge on the morning of

36  
00:03:41,940 --> 00:03:50,960  
October 5 but slowly move apart as the month goes on.

37  
00:04:02,360 --> 00:04:05,800  
The Orionid meteor shower peaks on the night of

38

00:04:05,800 --> 00:04:11,340  
October 21st to the 22nd.

39

00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:17,280  
After midnight, look to the east,

40

00:04:17,280 --> 00:04:23,840  
where the constellation Orion is rising.

41

00:04:23,840 --> 00:04:28,160  
Every few minutes you may spy a tiny remnant of

42

00:04:28,160 --> 00:04:35,860  
Halley's Comet burning up high in the atmosphere.