

TONIGHT'S SKY



March
2018

1
00:00:05,960 --> 00:00:09,900
Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,

2
00:00:09,900 --> 00:00:11,900
planets and events.

3
00:00:14,580 --> 00:00:24,420
Tonight's Sky – highlights of the March sky.

4
00:00:36,600 --> 00:00:39,500
As the brilliant stars of winter progress

5
00:00:39,500 --> 00:00:40,780
toward the west,

6
00:00:40,780 --> 00:00:44,060
the constellations of spring make their appearance.

7
00:00:44,060 --> 00:00:46,040
Two March constellations

8
00:00:46,040 --> 00:00:49,840
derived from Greek mythology, Gemini and Cancer,

9
00:00:49,840 --> 00:00:51,700
lie in the zodiac.

10
00:00:51,700 --> 00:00:54,520
The zodiac is the name for the band of sky through

11
00:00:54,520 --> 00:00:59,820
which the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to travel.

12
00:00:59,820 --> 00:01:02,940
The Gemini twins by high overhead.

13
00:01:02,940 --> 00:01:05,440

They were among Jason's Argonauts,

14

00:01:05,440 --> 00:01:13,720

who sailed the seas searching for the Golden Fleece.

15

00:01:20,140 --> 00:01:23,280

The two bright stars are the heads of the brothers,

16

00:01:23,280 --> 00:01:30,540

Castor and Pollux.

17

00:01:30,540 --> 00:01:34,980

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

18

00:01:34,980 --> 00:01:36,780

Called M35,

19

00:01:36,780 --> 00:01:39,280

it is a pretty cluster of several hundred stars.

20

00:01:58,860 --> 00:02:02,120

Cancer is often identified as a crab,

21

00:02:02,120 --> 00:02:07,920

but has also been seen as a lobster or crayfish.

22

00:02:07,920 --> 00:02:11,620

In Greek mythology, Cancer was placed in the heavens

23

00:02:11,620 --> 00:02:16,000

by Hera, wife of Zeus, to immortalize its tenacious but

24

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:23,140

futile battle with Hercules.

25

00:02:23,140 --> 00:02:26,320

It is a much dimmer constellation than Gemini,

26

00:02:26,320 --> 00:02:30,060

and hard to see in light-polluted skies.

27

00:02:30,060 --> 00:02:37,280

Within Cancer lies the lovely Beehive Cluster.

28

00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:42,540

Ancient stargazers called it "the cloudy star."

29

00:02:42,540 --> 00:02:46,440

This large cluster contains hundreds of stars

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00:02:46,440 --> 00:02:57,260

and lies about 577 light-years away from us.

31

00:03:10,660 --> 00:03:14,160

Before dawn, a string of planets highlight the

32

00:03:14,160 --> 00:03:19,320

eastern sky: Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter.

33

00:03:19,320 --> 00:03:21,920

Jupiter and Saturn are the largest

34

00:03:21,920 --> 00:03:23,860

planets in our solar system,

35

00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:30,060

while Mars is second only to Mercury as the smallest.

36

00:03:30,060 --> 00:03:33,440

With a backyard telescope, the rings of Saturn

37

00:03:33,440 --> 00:03:36,560

and the bands of Jupiter are clearly visible,

38

00:03:36,560 --> 00:03:44,600

while Mars appears as a small, orange-red disk.