
TONIGHT'S
SKY
May
2018

1
00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:09,780
Your guide to constellations,

2
00:00:09,780 --> 00:00:14,720
deep-sky objects, planets, and events: Tonight's Sky.

3
00:00:14,720 --> 00:00:20,560
Highlights of the May sky:

4
00:00:41,260 --> 00:00:45,560
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
00:00:54,940 --> 00:01:01,960
sunlight-reflecting clouds, which hide its rocky surface.

8
00:01:11,820 --> 00:01:13,720
A second blazing planet

9
00:01:13,720 --> 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
00:01:32,960 --> 00:01:35,960

A small telescope shows its cloud bands

14
00:01:35,960 --> 00:01:41,000
and its four large moons.

15
00:01:50,300 --> 00:01:53,440
Looking toward the south, we've turned away from the

16
00:01:53,440 --> 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 --> 00:02:12,700
One of the zodiacal constellations of ancient times,

21
00:02:12,700 --> 00:02:21,540
Virgo honors the life-giving virtues of women.

22
00:02:21,540 --> 00:02:23,640
Using a pair of binoculars,

23
00:02:23,640 --> 00:02:27,180
visit the Virgo Cluster of Galaxies.

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

25
00:02:30,700 --> 00:02:33,340
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 --> 00:02:52,660
Its dark dust lane makes it look like a large hat,

30
00:02:52,660 --> 00:02:57,320
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
00:03:13,420 --> 00:03:16,600
long hair to the gods to ensure her husband’s

34
00:03:16,600 --> 00:03:21,760
safe return from war.

35
00:03:29,660 --> 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
00:04:24,200 --> 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 --> 00:04:55,820
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 --> 00:05:20,140
rising in the southeast around midnight.

47
00:05:20,140 --> 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 --> 00:05:32,320
Saturn's iconic rings are visible

50
00:05:32,320 --> 00:05:34,800
even in small telescopes.

51
00:05:34,800 --> 00:05:36,940
As Mars gets closer to Earth,

52
00:05:36,940 --> 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
00:05:56,380 --> 00:05:59,440
diminutive Mercury may be seen

55
00:05:59,440 --> 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
00:06:14,700 --> 00:06:16,820
spotting Mercury becomes more

58
00:06:16,820 --> 00:06:22,680
difficult as the month progresses.

59
00:06:31,960 --> 00:06:35,540
The annual Eta Aquarid meteor shower returns

60
00:06:35,540 --> 00:06:40,800
this month.

61
00:06:40,800 --> 00:06:43,580
On the night of May 6 to 7,

62
00:06:43,580 --> 00:06:47,360
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.