



Sulfuric acid clouds & haze
45-66 km / 28-41 mi.

Surface

1
00:00:06,950 --> 00:00:03,830
what's up for january

2
00:00:07,510 --> 00:00:06,960
earth's sister planet venus hello and

3
00:00:09,589 --> 00:00:07,520
welcome

4
00:00:11,669 --> 00:00:09,599
i'm jane houston jones at nasa's jet

5
00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:11,679
propulsion laboratory in pasadena

6
00:00:15,190 --> 00:00:12,880
california

7
00:00:16,790 --> 00:00:15,200
each month during 2009 we'll be

8
00:00:17,830 --> 00:00:16,800
celebrating international year of

9
00:00:20,150 --> 00:00:17,840
astronomy

10
00:00:22,390 --> 00:00:20,160
we'll focus on night sky wonders you can

11
00:00:25,830 --> 00:00:22,400
see related nasa missions

12
00:00:27,189 --> 00:00:25,840
and space science discoveries venus is

13
00:00:30,070 --> 00:00:27,199

easy to see this month

14

00:00:31,750 --> 00:00:30,080

just step outside just after sunset any

15

00:00:33,590 --> 00:00:31,760

winter evening

16

00:00:35,750 --> 00:00:33,600

the planet will brighten and appear

17

00:00:40,389 --> 00:00:35,760

crescent-shaped as the winter months

18

00:00:44,069 --> 00:00:42,389

venus is sometimes called earth's sister

19

00:00:46,150 --> 00:00:44,079

planet because it's the nearest

20

00:00:48,310 --> 00:00:46,160

planet to earth and it's nearly the same

21

00:00:51,110 --> 00:00:48,320

size but unlike earth

22

00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:51,120

venus is obscured by a blanket of dense

23

00:00:54,869 --> 00:00:52,480

carbon dioxide

24

00:00:57,830 --> 00:00:54,879

venus also has several layers of dense

25

00:01:00,310 --> 00:00:57,840

clouds composed of sulfuric acid

26
00:01:02,470 --> 00:01:00,320
these clouds completely obscure our view

27
00:01:04,390 --> 00:01:02,480
of the planet's surface

28
00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:04,400
venus has been easily observed for

29
00:01:08,070 --> 00:01:05,760
thousands of years

30
00:01:10,310 --> 00:01:08,080
but it wasn't until the 17th century

31
00:01:12,550 --> 00:01:10,320
that telescopes first revealed some of

32
00:01:15,190 --> 00:01:12,560
its wonders

33
00:01:19,190 --> 00:01:15,200
400 years ago galileo first observed the

34
00:01:24,950 --> 00:01:21,350
the prevailing belief was that the sun

35
00:01:27,109 --> 00:01:24,960
and planets revolved around the earth

36
00:01:29,910 --> 00:01:27,119
the phases looked similar to what he saw

37
00:01:32,149 --> 00:01:29,920
on earth's moon each month

38
00:01:33,190 --> 00:01:32,159

this was evidence that venus orbited the

39

00:01:36,550 --> 00:01:33,200

sun not

40

00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:36,560

the earth other observers also sketched

41

00:01:40,069 --> 00:01:38,840

the phases of venus through their

42

00:01:41,749 --> 00:01:40,079

telescopes

43

00:01:43,510 --> 00:01:41,759

you can see the phases of venus for

44

00:01:45,990 --> 00:01:43,520

yourself

45

00:01:48,710 --> 00:01:46,000

through binoculars or a telescope venus

46

00:01:51,190 --> 00:01:48,720

appears as a waning crescent in january

47

00:01:54,389 --> 00:01:51,200

and by march you'll see it as a larger

48

00:01:56,069 --> 00:01:54,399

but very slender crescent earthly

49

00:01:57,990 --> 00:01:56,079

observers have been enjoying views of

50

00:02:01,350 --> 00:01:58,000

venus for centuries

51
00:02:03,590 --> 00:02:01,360
in 1962 mariner 2 became the first

52
00:02:05,190 --> 00:02:03,600
successful mission to visit venus

53
00:02:07,109 --> 00:02:05,200
since then there have been more than a

54
00:02:09,589 --> 00:02:07,119
dozen orbiters and landers

55
00:02:11,830 --> 00:02:09,599
to visit venus you can read more about

56
00:02:13,750 --> 00:02:11,840
venus revealed on nasa's international

57
00:02:18,550 --> 00:02:13,760
year of astronomy website

58
00:02:20,309 --> 00:02:18,560
astronomy 2009.nasa.gov

59
00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:20,319
and you can learn all about nasa's

60
00:02:26,949 --> 00:02:25,200
missions at www.nasa.gov