Big Dipper
Ursa Major

Little Dipper
Ursa Minor

Quadrantids
Look northeast
after midnight
January 3

• Arcturus

1
00:00:07,270 --> 00:00:04,820
what's up for January meteor shower

2
00:00:09,950 --> 00:00:07,280
fireworks ring in the new year

3
00:00:12,290 --> 00:00:09,960
hello and welcome I'm Jane Houston Jones

4
00:00:15,709 --> 00:00:12,300
at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in

5
00:00:17,900 --> 00:00:15,719
Pasadena California if you didn't catch

6
00:00:20,570 --> 00:00:17,910
last month's Geminid meteor shower don't

7
00:00:22,429 --> 00:00:20,580
worry about it the January quadrant

8
00:00:24,310 --> 00:00:22,439
heads will be just as good and maybe

9
00:00:27,890 --> 00:00:24,320
even better depending on your location

10
00:00:30,740 --> 00:00:27,900
they peak on January 3rd and 4th which

11
00:00:32,510 --> 00:00:30,750
is a dark new moon night this month this

12
00:00:34,069 --> 00:00:32,520
means that there won't be any annoying

13
00:00:36,830 --> 00:00:34,079

moon light to spoil the fireworks

14
00:00:40,010 --> 00:00:36,840
display this could be the best shower of

15
00:00:42,650 --> 00:00:40,020
the year the peak of this meteor shower

16
00:00:44,569 --> 00:00:42,660
is best seen from Europe here in the

17
00:00:47,240 --> 00:00:44,579
Western Hemisphere the radiant doesn't

18
00:00:49,790 --> 00:00:47,250
even rise till after midnight and this

19
00:00:51,650 --> 00:00:49,800
shower has a very sharp peak which means

20
00:00:53,810 --> 00:00:51,660
that most meteors are visible for only

21
00:00:57,729 --> 00:00:53,820
several hours instead of several days

22
00:01:00,220 --> 00:00:57,739
like the famous Perseids of August

23
00:01:02,290 --> 00:01:00,230
look in the Northeast between and below

24
00:01:06,310 --> 00:01:02,300
that familiar Big and Little Dippers and

25
00:01:08,320 --> 00:01:06,320
the bright star Arcturus this shower

26
00:01:10,420 --> 00:01:08,330
isn't named for the modern constellation

27
00:01:13,690 --> 00:01:10,430
in which it appears but for an obsolete

28
00:01:15,580 --> 00:01:13,700
one called quadrants Miralles it depicts

29
00:01:18,280 --> 00:01:15,590
an early instrument called a mural

30
00:01:20,469 --> 00:01:18,290
quadrant which was used to observe and

31
00:01:25,300 --> 00:01:20,479
measure stellar positions it's similar

32
00:01:28,630 --> 00:01:25,310
to today's sextant there's more to enjoy

33
00:01:31,240 --> 00:01:28,640
this wintery month Venus mercury and

34
00:01:34,270 --> 00:01:31,250
Saturn continued to dazzle early risers

35
00:01:36,910 --> 00:01:34,280
before dawn and by month end Saturn

36
00:01:39,279 --> 00:01:36,920
Rises before midnight Jupiter on the

37
00:01:43,330 --> 00:01:39,289
other hand sets before 9:30 p.m. by

38
00:01:45,700 --> 00:01:43,340

month end in February the repurposed

39
00:01:48,460 --> 00:01:45,710
spacecraft Stardust next will fly by

40
00:01:51,520 --> 00:01:48,470
comet Tempel 1 which was first visited

41
00:01:55,419 --> 00:01:51,530
by NASA's Deep Impact spacecraft in 2005

42
00:01:56,889 --> 00:01:55,429
you can learn more about our planetary

43
00:02:01,899 --> 00:01:56,899
family tree at solarsystem.nasa.gov

44
00:02:04,120 --> 00:02:01,909
slash yss for year of the solar system

45
00:02:09,190 --> 00:02:04,130
you can learn all about other NASA