

Looking West  
Sunset  
August 5

Saturn  
Mars  
Spica



1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000  
Music.

2  
00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:07,000  
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for August. View Mars as the rover Curiosity lands on its surface this month.

3  
00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:13,000  
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

4  
00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:24,000  
On August 5 at 10:31 p.m. Pacific time NASA's Mars rover named Curiosity will touch down in Gale Crater.

5  
00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:28,000  
The best time to view Mars this month is right after sunset.

6  
00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:33,000  
Saturn, Mars and the bright star Spica form a trio almost all month long.

7  
00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:37,000  
Look low in the west, 30 degrees above the horizon.

8  
00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:40,000  
You should be able to see the difference in color between the three.

9  
00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:45,000  
Saturn appears golden. Spica is blue-white. And Mars is rusty red.

10  
00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:49,000  
On the 21st the moon joins the lineup.

11  
00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:55,000  
On the night of the 5th, Mars sets a few hours after sunset everywhere in the U.S. You can find

12  
00:00:55,000 --> 00:01:02,000  
a Mars viewing party on this night by checking with your local planetarium, science center or astronomy club.

13  
00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:05,000

If you get a chance to view Mars through a telescope on that night,

14

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:11,000

you might be able to see the dark Martian feature called Syrtis Major near the center of the planet.

15

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:15,000

Although you can't see Gale Crater, Curiosity's landing site, through the telescope,

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:19,000

it's near the limb to the east of Syrtis Major that night.

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:26,000

On the opposite limb is the rover Opportunity, who's been exploring Mars since 2004.

18

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:31,000

The most popular meteor shower of the year, the Perseids, peaks on a summer weekend

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:35,000

Saturday night through Sunday morning, August 11th and 12th.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:40,000

The constellation Perseus rises in the northeast soon after sunset.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:44,000

Just follow the Milky Way from the south to the north to find it.

22

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:51,000

You'll see dozens of fast, bright meteors, some leaving persistent trains or smoky trails.

23

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:58,000

You can find information about Curiosity's landing at [www.nasa.gov/mars](http://www.nasa.gov/mars)

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:05,000

and [jp1.nasa.gov/mars](http://jp1.nasa.gov/mars). And look for MarsCuriosity on Twitter and Facebook.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:10,000

You can learn about all of NASA's missions at [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov).

