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Music.

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00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:06,000

Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for December? Starry fireworks end the year with a bang.

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00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:13,000

Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

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00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:19,000

The constellation Gemini, the twins, is one of the dazzling winter constellations.

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Gemini will rise in the northeast near the beautiful constellation Orion.

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The Geminid meteor shower is usually one of the best of the year.

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Though the shower's peak is brief, on the night of December 13 and 14,

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up to 120 meteors per hour are predicted, if you live in an area with dark skies.

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You'll see some meteors before and after the peak days, too.

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If you have a dark sky, you'll also see the winter Milky Way rising between Orion and Gemini,

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bisecting the sky.

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The constellations Perseus and Cassiopeia are nearly overhead and are easy to see, even from the city.

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If you haven't tried to find the asteroids Ceres and Vesta yet, they're at their best this month, too.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,000

And they're easy to find near Jupiter.

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:14,000

All three objects reach opposition in December, when they're best for viewing.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:21,000

Mercury, Venus and Saturn line up in the predawn sky from the 9th through the 21st.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Finally, on December 25, watch Jupiter next to the moon an hour past sunset.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:32,000

To study the stars and planets, and to learn about all of NASA's missions,

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:35,000

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