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Music.

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00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:04,000  
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for May.

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00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:07,000  
Spring constellations yield science targets you can see.

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00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:14,000  
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

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May is a great month to see a lovely collection of constellations with your own eyes

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and view objects studied by NASA spacecraft and telescopes.

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Use the moon to help locate the constellations this month.

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On May 13 the crescent moon is between the 'feet' of the Gemini twins.

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The stars Pollux and Castor mark the heads of the twins.

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The Eskimo Nebula, studied by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope,

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is a fine object to view through small telescopes.

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From the 14th through the 17th the moon passes the pretty Beehive Cluster

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located in the Y-shaped constellation Cancer.

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The first planets to be found orbiting sun-like stars in a star cluster were found in the Beehive

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by NASA-funded astronomers using the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Arizona.

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On the 18th and 19th you'll find the moon near the paws of Leo the Lion.

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A trio of Leo galaxies have been extensively studied by many telescopes,

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including the European Southern Observatory's Visual Survey Telescope.

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This trio -- M-65, M-66 and NGC-3628 -- is a popular target for amateur astrophotographers, too.

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On the 22nd you'll find the moon near the V-shaped constellation Virgo -- and Saturn.

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The Palomar telescope observed a chain of galaxies in the heart of the Virgo Cluster,

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another popular, but challenging, amateur astronomer target called Markarian's Chain.

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Nearby are the constellations Cygnus and Lyra, home to the Kepler Habitable Planet Search Grid,

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where the smallest Habitable Zone planets were just discovered in April.

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You can see a collection of space images taken by NASA telescopes at

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And you can learn about all of NASA's missions at w w w dot nasa dot gov