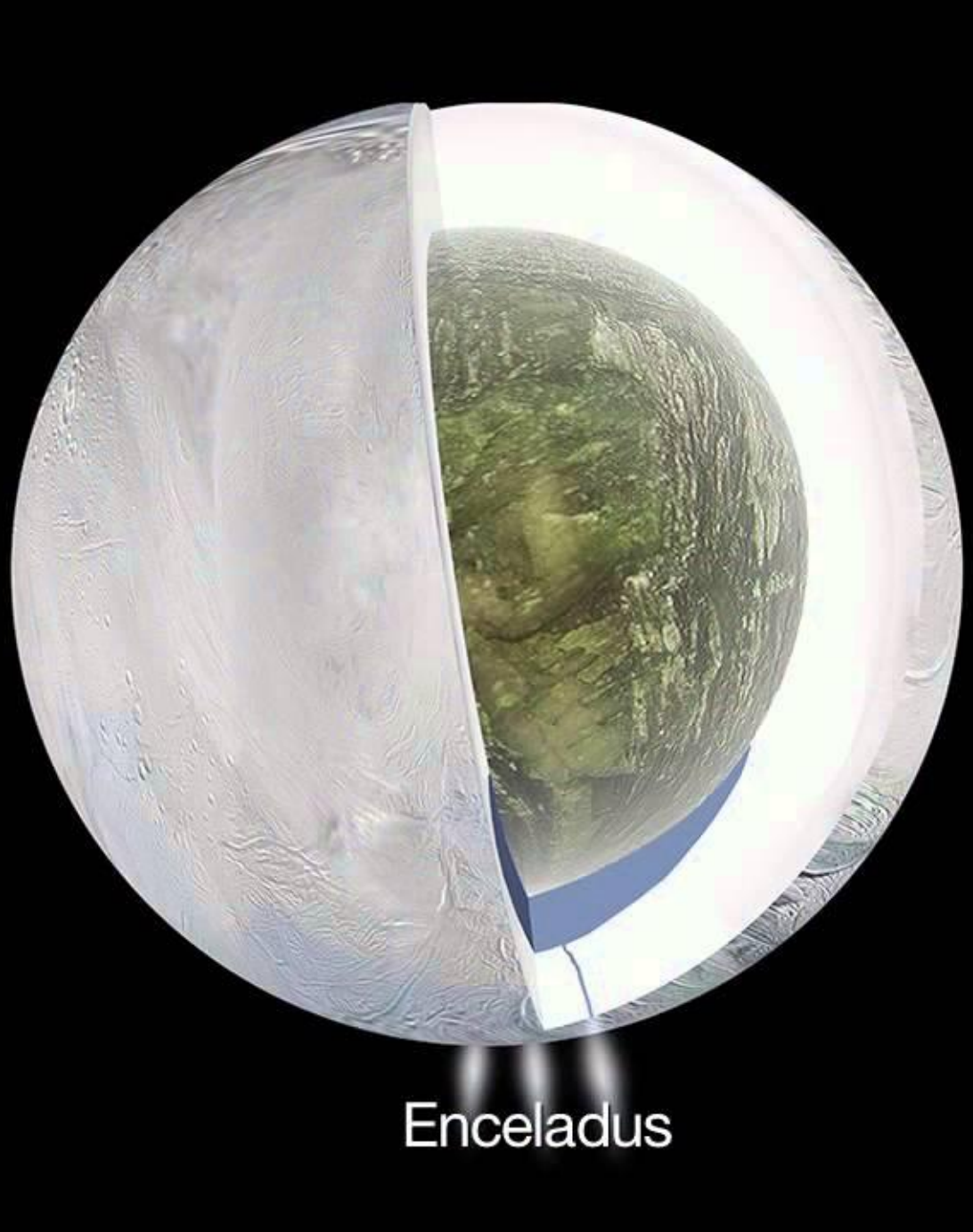

Titan


Enceladus

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,000
Music.

2
00:00:03,000 --> 00:00:04,000
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for May.

3
00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:09,000
Great views of Saturn and Mars all night long. And a possible new meteor shower.

4
00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:16,000
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

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00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:19,000
Mars dims and shrinks in diameter quite a bit this month,

6
00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:22,000
but it's easy to spot high in the Southern sky.

7
00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:23,000
Sound: Whoosh.

8
00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:29,000
Jones: Saturn reaches opposition on May 10, rising at sunset and setting just before sunrise.

9
00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:34,000
This month the north side of the ring plane is tilted 21.7 degrees,

10
00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:38,000
providing a beautiful view of the planet's north pole.

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:42,000
Even through modest telescopes, you can see some detail on the pole.

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:49,000
The Cassini mission has been studying the Saturn system since 2004, sending back amazing images.

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:55,000

Cassini has also sent back unprecedented data and views of Saturn's moons Titan and Enceladus

14
00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000
showing both moons have liquid oceans beneath the surface.

15
00:00:58,000 --> 00:00:59,000
Sound: Whoosh.

16
00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:03,000
Jones: There's a new comet visible in the May skies all month long.

17
00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:13,000
Comet PanSTARRS -- C 2012 K1 -- will be visible in binoculars and telescopes, shining at magnitude 7 or 8.

18
00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:16,000
It's easy to find as it skims the sky below the Big Dipper.

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00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:20,000
The best time to see it will be on dark, moonless nights at the beginning of the month

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000
and again from May 17 through early June.

21
00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:24,000
Sound: Whoosh.

22
00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:31,000
Jones: Speaking of comets, Comet 209 P LINEAR makes a close pass by Earth on May 29.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:36,000
You may be able to spot the small, faint comet as it passes the familiar constellations

24
00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:40,000
Ursa Major and Leo from May 10 through the 27.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:46,000
On the nights of May 23 and 24 Earth will possibly pass through the dust trail left by this comet

26
00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:48,000
in its previous orbits.

27
00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000
If this happens we just might see a new meteor shower.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:58,000
This potential new shower is so new that astronomers are not quite sure what to expect.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:01,000
Predictions run from less than 100 meteors per hour

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:07,000
up to an unlikely, but possible, meteor storm as high as 1,000 per hour.

31
00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:14,000
The meteor shower's radiant is near Polaris and the constellation Camelopardalis, the cameleopard or giraffe.

32
00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:18,000
And it favors observers in southern Canada and the continental U.S.

33
00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:22,000
Set your alarm from midnight on May 23 and 24,

34
00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:28,000
and keep your eyes peeled for slow-moving but bright meteors, both nights if you can.

35
00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:33,000
You can learn about all of NASA's missions, including those that study comets, Mars and Saturn

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00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:36,000
at w w w dot NASA dot gov.