

A large, reddish-orange planet, likely Mars, is shown in space against a black background filled with stars. A small wooden sign is attached to the planet's surface. The sign has the text "Welcome InSight!" written on it in a stylized font. The planet's surface is textured with various shades of brown and orange, indicating craters and geological features.

Welcome
InSight!

1
00:00:03,836 --> 00:00:05,238
What's Up for May?

2
00:00:05,271 --> 00:00:09,175
The moon and Saturn meet Mars in
the morning as NASA's Insight

3
00:00:09,208 --> 00:00:12,278
spacecraft launches to the
red planet on May 5.

4
00:00:13,479 --> 00:00:15,448
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane
Houston Jones from NASA's

5
00:00:15,481 --> 00:00:18,584
Jet Propulsion Laboratory in
Pasadena, California.

6
00:00:19,318 --> 00:00:21,154
You won't want to miss red Mars

7
00:00:21,187 --> 00:00:23,523
in the southern morning
skies this month.

8
00:00:23,556 --> 00:00:26,793
Some lucky viewers in central
and southern California

9
00:00:26,826 --> 00:00:29,395
and even parts of the
Mexican Pacific coast

10
00:00:29,428 --> 00:00:31,931
will get a chance to see
the launch of InSight--

11
00:00:31,964 --> 00:00:35,101

NASA's latest mission--with
their unaided eyes

12

00:00:35,134 --> 00:00:38,037

AND see the spacecraft's
destination, Mars,

13

00:00:38,070 --> 00:00:39,572

at the same time.

14

00:00:40,806 --> 00:00:44,977

InSight is scheduled to reach
Mars on November 26, 2018.

15

00:00:46,078 --> 00:00:47,980

The launch window from
Vandenberg Air Force Base

16

00:00:48,013 --> 00:00:52,485

in central California opens
on May 5 at 4:05 a.m.

17

00:00:52,518 --> 00:00:55,955

Pacific Daylight Time
and lasts for two hours.

18

00:00:55,988 --> 00:00:59,492

On subsequent dates, the window
opens a few minutes earlier

19

00:00:59,525 --> 00:01:04,330

each day until 1:30 a.m. Pacific
Daylight Time on June 8th.

20

00:01:04,363 --> 00:01:06,799

This will be the first
interplanetary launch

21

00:01:06,832 --> 00:01:08,234

from the West Coast.

22

00:01:09,268 --> 00:01:11,370

Mars shines a little brighter
than last month,

23

00:01:11,403 --> 00:01:14,774

as it approaches
opposition on July 27th.

24

00:01:14,807 --> 00:01:16,442

That's when Mars and
the Sun will be

25

00:01:16,475 --> 00:01:18,845

on opposite sides of the Earth.

26

00:01:18,878 --> 00:01:23,483

This will be Mars' closest
approach to Earth since 2003!

27

00:01:23,516 --> 00:01:25,952

Compare the planet's
increases in brightness

28

00:01:25,985 --> 00:01:29,489

with your own eyes between
now and July 27th.

29

00:01:29,522 --> 00:01:30,590

[whoosh]

30

00:01:30,623 --> 00:01:33,426

The Eta Aquarid meteor shower
will be washed out

31

00:01:33,459 --> 00:01:34,727

by the Moon this month,

32

00:01:34,760 --> 00:01:37,396

but if you are awake for the
InSight launch anyway,

33

00:01:37,429 --> 00:01:38,630
have a look.

34

00:01:38,664 --> 00:01:41,534
This shower is better viewed
from the southern hemisphere,

35

00:01:41,567 --> 00:01:44,604
but medium rates of 10 to 30
meteors per hour

36

00:01:44,637 --> 00:01:46,772
MAY be seen before dawn.

37

00:01:46,805 --> 00:01:49,108
Of course, you could travel
to the South Pacific

38

00:01:49,141 --> 00:01:51,177
to see the shower at its best!

39

00:01:51,210 --> 00:01:53,579
There's no sharp peak
to this shower--

40

00:01:53,612 --> 00:01:57,283
just several nights with good
rates, centered on May 6th.

41

00:01:57,316 --> 00:01:59,719
Give yourself an hour
to view meteors,

42

00:01:59,752 --> 00:02:03,556
as they sometimes come in spurts
with lulls in between.

43

00:02:03,589 --> 00:02:07,527

Plus, it takes about 20 minutes
for your eyes to dark adapt.

44

00:02:07,560 --> 00:02:10,396

You don't need to look
directly at the radiant.

45

00:02:10,429 --> 00:02:13,533

Instead, look away or
even lie on the ground

46

00:02:13,566 --> 00:02:15,768

looking directly overhead.

47

00:02:15,801 --> 00:02:19,071

That gives you a wide amount
of sky to watch comfortably.

48

00:02:19,104 --> 00:02:20,139

[whoosh]

49

00:02:20,172 --> 00:02:22,675

Jupiter reaches opposition
on May 9th,

50

00:02:22,708 --> 00:02:25,478

heralding the best
Jupiter-observing season,

51

00:02:25,511 --> 00:02:28,214

especially for
mid-evening viewing.

52

00:02:28,247 --> 00:02:31,651

That's because the king of the
planets rises at sunset

53

00:02:31,684 --> 00:02:33,352

and sets at dawn.

54

00:02:33,385 --> 00:02:35,087

Wait a few hours after sunset,

55

00:02:35,120 --> 00:02:37,924

when Jupiter is higher in the sky, for the best views.

56

00:02:38,791 --> 00:02:40,326

If you viewed Jupiter last month,

57

00:02:40,359 --> 00:02:42,929

expect the view to be even better this month!

58

00:02:44,097 --> 00:02:46,499

You can catch up on solar system missions like InSight,

59

00:02:46,532 --> 00:02:51,037

and all of NASA's missions at: www.nasa.gov

60

00:02:52,138 --> 00:02:54,340

That's all for this month. I'm Jane Houston Jones.

61

00:02:55,074 --> 00:02:56,342

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory