
NORTH

1
00:00:00,266 --> 00:00:03,069
[■]

2
00:00:03,100 --> 00:00:04,960
What's Up for April?

3
00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:08,780
Finding the North Star, and some
nice sights at dusk and dawn.

4
00:00:09,640 --> 00:00:12,320
The North Star isn't the
brightest star in the sky.

5
00:00:12,344 --> 00:00:13,913
But it can help
you find your way

6
00:00:13,946 --> 00:00:16,216
and orient yourself nonetheless.

7
00:00:17,850 --> 00:00:20,653
Polaris, known as the North
Star, sits more or less directly

8
00:00:20,686 --> 00:00:24,290
above Earth's north pole along
its rotational axis.

9
00:00:25,491 --> 00:00:27,260
This means Polaris
doesn't move very far

10
00:00:27,293 --> 00:00:28,628
over the course
of the night,

11
00:00:28,661 --> 00:00:31,230
while the rest of the

stars sweep out big circles

12
00:00:31,263 --> 00:00:33,266
as they rotate around the sky.

13
00:00:34,133 --> 00:00:36,569
Finding Polaris is easy
on any clear night.

14
00:00:36,602 --> 00:00:38,838
Just find the Big Dipper.

15
00:00:38,871 --> 00:00:41,140
The two stars on the end
of the Dipper's "cup"

16
00:00:41,173 --> 00:00:42,909
point the way to Polaris,

17
00:00:42,942 --> 00:00:45,378
which is the tip of the
handle of the Little Dipper,

18
00:00:45,411 --> 00:00:49,348
or the tail of the little bear
in the constellation Ursa Minor.

19
00:00:49,381 --> 00:00:51,117
Once you're facing
toward Polaris,

20
00:00:51,150 --> 00:00:52,452
you know you're facing north,

21
00:00:52,485 --> 00:00:54,554
which can help you
orient yourself

22
00:00:54,587 --> 00:00:56,756

any evening you're
out stargazing.

23
00:00:56,789 --> 00:00:57,824
[whoosh]

24
00:00:57,857 --> 00:01:00,793
On April 8th, look low in
the west after sunset

25
00:01:00,826 --> 00:01:03,396
to find the slim crescent of
the four-day-old Moon

26
00:01:03,429 --> 00:01:04,931
with some companions.

27
00:01:04,964 --> 00:01:07,533
To the right of the Moon is the
Pleiades star cluster.

28
00:01:07,566 --> 00:01:10,103
Above and to the right is Mars.

29
00:01:10,136 --> 00:01:14,340
And above and to the left is the
red giant star Aldebaran.

30
00:01:14,373 --> 00:01:16,375
By the next evening,
the Moon has moved

31
00:01:16,408 --> 00:01:17,810
a bit higher in the sky

32
00:01:17,843 --> 00:01:20,680
and hangs here, above Aldebaran.

33
00:01:20,780 --> 00:01:21,848

[whoosh]

34
00:01:21,881 --> 00:01:24,150
Near the end of April,
the Moon pays a visit

35
00:01:24,183 --> 00:01:27,520
to Jupiter and Saturn
for a spot of tea.

36
00:01:27,553 --> 00:01:31,224
Currently, the solar system's
two largest planets can be found

37
00:01:31,257 --> 00:01:34,927
near the constellation
Sagittarius in the morning sky.

38
00:01:34,960 --> 00:01:37,964
Usually imagined as a centaur
wielding a bow and arrow,

39
00:01:37,997 --> 00:01:41,534
Sagittarius also contains a fun
little pattern of stars,

40
00:01:41,567 --> 00:01:45,171
called an asterism, that
looks bit like a teapot.

41
00:01:45,204 --> 00:01:49,876
On the 23rd, look south before
sunrise to spy the 19-day-old,

42
00:01:49,909 --> 00:01:52,578
waning, gibbous Moon
only half a degree

43
00:01:52,611 --> 00:01:55,648
(or half a finger's

width) above Jupiter.

44
00:01:55,681 --> 00:01:58,584
By the 25th, the Moon has
crossed over the Teapot

45
00:01:58,617 --> 00:02:01,053
to Saturn, hanging a bit
more than 1 degree

46
00:02:01,086 --> 00:02:02,855
below the ringed
planet that morning.

47
00:02:02,888 --> 00:02:04,724
So if you're up early this week,

48
00:02:04,757 --> 00:02:07,994
raise your mug for these
morning meetings.

49
00:02:08,027 --> 00:02:10,296
Here are the phases of
the Moon for April.

50
00:02:12,965 --> 00:02:15,101
You can catch up on all
of NASA's current