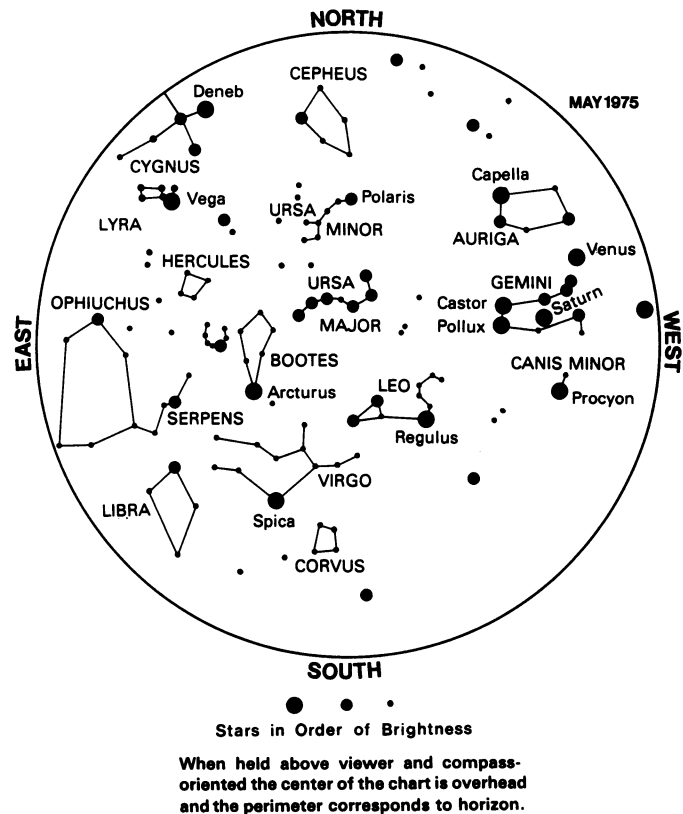


Stars of May

CELESTIAL TIME TABLE			
May	3	1:44 a.m. EDT	Moon in last quarter
	5	6:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,600 miles
	11	3:05 a.m.	New Moon; partial eclipse of sun visible in Europe and Arctic regions
	12	9:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Mercury
	14	2:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Venus
	15	8:00 a.m.	Moon passes south of Saturn
	16	8:00 p.m.	Mercury farthest east of sun; visible around this date low in west soon after sunset
	18	6:29 a.m.	Moon in first quarter
	20	4:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 228,900 miles
	23	9:00 p.m.	Venus passes north of Saturn
	25	1:51 a.m.	Full moon; total eclipse of moon, visible generally in North and South America



By James Stokley

Passing through the earth's shadow on the night of May 24, the moon will have a total eclipse visible generally in North and South America. Only along the Arctic coast of Alaska and Canada will it be invisible, hidden below the southern horizon.

At 12:01 a.m., EDT, the eastern edge of the moon, then in the full phase, will touch the shadow's edge. It will be completely immersed in the shadow, and the eclipse will be total, at 1:04 a.m. Totality will last about an hour and a half, when the northeastern edge of the moon will start emerging from our shadow at 2:33 a.m. and finish at 3:37 a.m.

Although no direct sunlight shines on the fully eclipsed moon, it will still get

some illumination. Our atmosphere bends some of the solar rays passing through it so that they reach the totally eclipsed moon. With blue light scattered to give the daytime sky its characteristic color, mainly red light reaches the moon. Usually, when totally eclipsed, it shows a coppery red color.

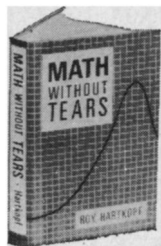
Venus is the most prominent planet of the May evening, shining brilliantly in the west until it sets more than three hours after sunset. Seldom-seen Mercury will also be on view during much of May.

If the sky is clear in that direction, look for it near the horizon in the west north-west soon after sunset, perhaps around May 5, and you may glimpse it as a bright

evening star, considerably fainter than Venus, easily visible higher in the sky. Mercury will draw away from the sun until May 16, so each evening it will be a little higher.

On May 12, at 9 p.m., EDT, the moon, a narrow crescent low in the west, will pass to the south of Mercury. On the 14th, during daylight hours in the United States, it will pass Venus and that evening they will still be close. The next morning the moon passes south of Saturn. Thus, if it's clear in the west about twilight at the middle of May perhaps you'll be able to see the interesting sight of the crescent moon and three planets all in the same part of the sky.

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