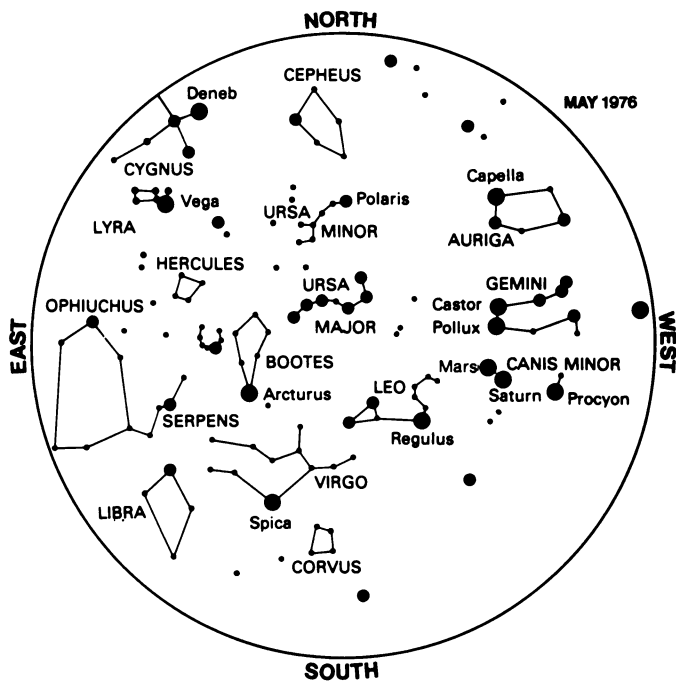


# STARS OF MAY

## CELESTIAL TIME TABLE

|     |    |              |  |
|-----|----|--------------|--|
| May | 5  | 10:00 am EDT | Moon passes south of Mars  |
|     |    | 4:00 pm      | Moon passes south of Saturn  |
|     | 7  | 1:17 am      | Moon in first quarter  |
|     | 11 | 10:00 am     | Venus passes south of Jupiter  |
|     |    | 10:00 pm     | Mars passes north of Saturn  |
|     | 12 | 1:00 pm      | Moon nearest, distance 223,200 miles                                   |
|     | 13 | 4:04 pm      | Full moon; small partial eclipse visible in Australia, Asia and Europe |
|     | 20 | 8:00 am      | Mercury between earth and sun  |
|     |    | 5:22 pm      | Moon in last quarter   |
|     | 24 | 8:00 pm      | Moon farthest, distance 252,000 miles                                  |
|     | 26 | midnight     | Moon passes Jupiter  |
|     | 28 | 9:47 pm      | New Moon   |



BY JAMES STOKLEY

Low in the western sky on May evenings, you'll be able to see the constellation Gemini with its two brightest stars, Pollux and Castor. Pollux, the brighter, is to the left. And if you follow a straight line through them farther to the left, you'll come to Saturn, the principal planet of the May evening sky. In the constellation Cancer, it's about as brilliant as one of the bright stars.

About a third as bright and a little higher stands Mars, now moving eastward through this part of the sky. On Tuesday, May 11, at 10 p.m. EDT, it will pass directly north of Saturn by a distance more than twice the apparent diameter of the full Moon. The moon itself, as a wide

crescent, will pass Mars and then Saturn during daylight hours on May 5 so that by evening the three bodies will be close together.

Perhaps, in the first few days of May, you will also be able to see Mercury as the sky darkens at dusk. It will be lower than Mars or Saturn and farther north and will set on May 6 an hour and a half after the sun. Moving toward the sun and steadily dimming, it will fade from view well before it passes between sun and earth on the 20th.

The brightest star of May evenings, more brilliant than any of the planets mentioned, is Arcturus, high in the south-east in Boötes. Low in the northeast stands

Lyra, with Vega. Below it is Cygnus, whose brightest star is Deneb. It is quite near the horizon in mid-evening, however, and atmospheric absorption dims it considerably.

Jupiter, by the end of May, will rise about an hour and a half before the sun. If conditions are favorable, you'll be able to see it low in the east at dawn.

About midnight, EDT, on May 26, as viewed from locations in Europe and Asia, there will be an occultation of Jupiter as the moon passes in front of the planet. They will still be close when they rise in the U.S. and Canada. The moon will be a narrow crescent, less than two days before it is new. □

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