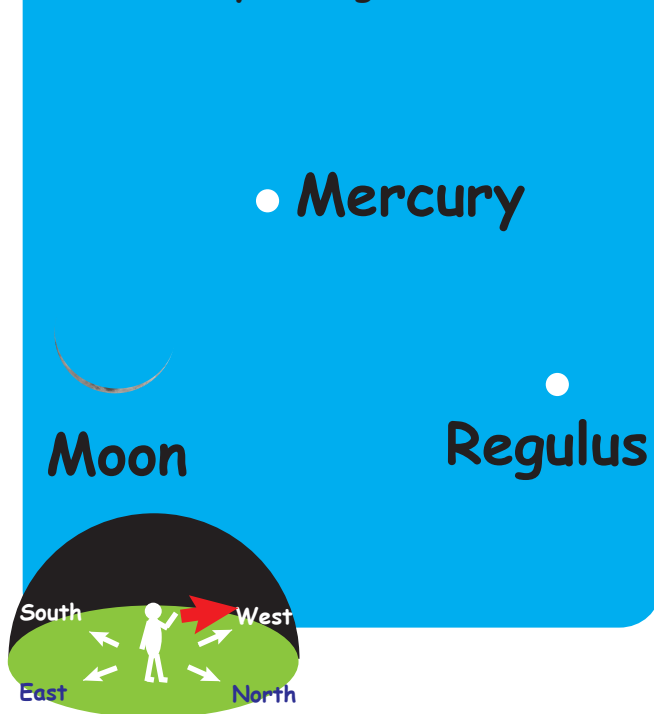


Amazing Space!

July - September 2011

Getting started in astronomy is as easy as looking up. This newsletter shows you how to find the planets Mercury and Saturn plus the Moon and constellations without a telescope.

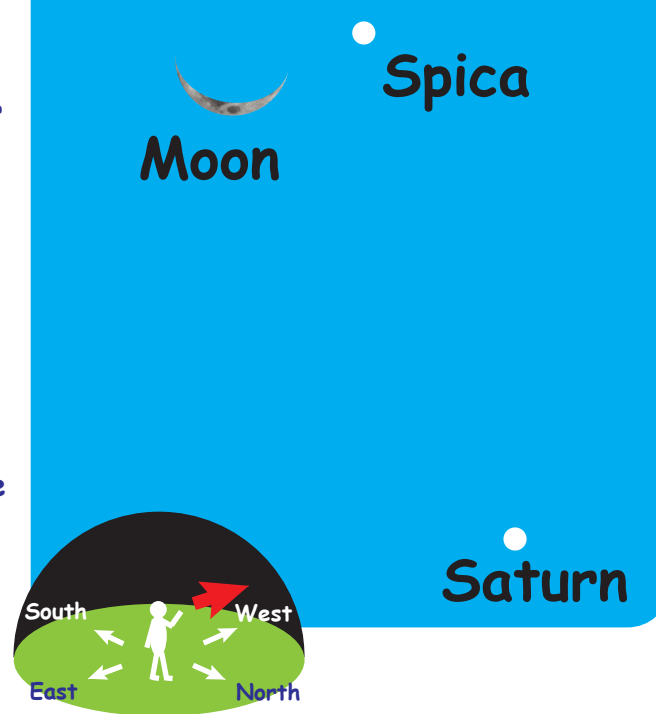
Monday 1 August 2011



Left: The slim crescent Moon, the planet Mercury and the star Regulus will be close to each other on Monday 1 August.

To spot them in the evening twilight sky, look low above the Western horizon around 6.15pm AEST. Keep in mind that without a telescope Mercury looks just like a star.

Thursday 1 September 2011



Left: The crescent Moon will be close to the star Spica on Thursday 1 September. Look around 7pm AEST.

If you look below Spica, the brightest 'star' is really the planet Saturn. Keep in mind that without a telescope Saturn looks like a pale yellow star. Even a small telescope will show Saturn's rings.

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Cruz 'The Southern Cross' and 'The Pointers'



Look high above the South Western horizon at the end of evening twilight.

Constellations



Constellations are imaginary pictures in the sky. Can you imagine a giant Scorpion or a Cross in the night sky?

Scorpius 'The Scorpion'



Look high above the South Eastern horizon at 8pm in mid-July and 7pm in mid - August.



Image credits

Full Moon disc: NASA.gov
Southern Cross and Scorpius: Stellarium (Stellarium.org)

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Find the Moon

July - September 2011



Crescent Moon

July 5
August 3
September 2



First Quarter Moon

July 8
August 6
September 5



Gibbous Moon

July 11
August 9
September 8



Full Moon

July 15
August 14
September 12

West

North

East