Paul Floyd's **Astronomy & Space Website**

www.nightskyonline.info

Amazing Space!

October - December 2015

Getting started in astronomy is as easy as looking up. This poster shows you how to find the planets Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn plus the Moon and constellations without a telescope. If you are an early riser, the months of October and December both present the opportunity to observe meteor showers. A meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through clouds of dust or rocks left in space by passing comets or asteroids. These impact the Earth's atmosphere causing short lived streaks of light astronomers call meteors. The meteor showers are named after the constellation from which the meteors appear to radiate.

See Saturn, Antares and the Moon together on Saturday 17 October 2015

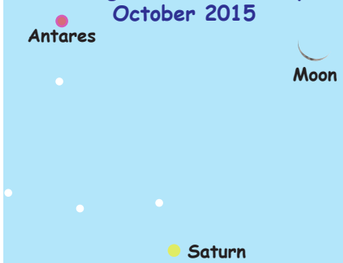


Chart prepared for 7:30 pm AEST or 8:30 pm AEDT . Look low above the Western horizon.

See Venus, Mars, Jupiter and the Moon together on Saturday 7 November 2015

Chart prepared for 3:30 am AEST or 4:30 am AEDT . Look low above the Eastern horizon.

See Venus, Mars, Jupiter. the Moon and the star Spica together on Monday 7 December 2015

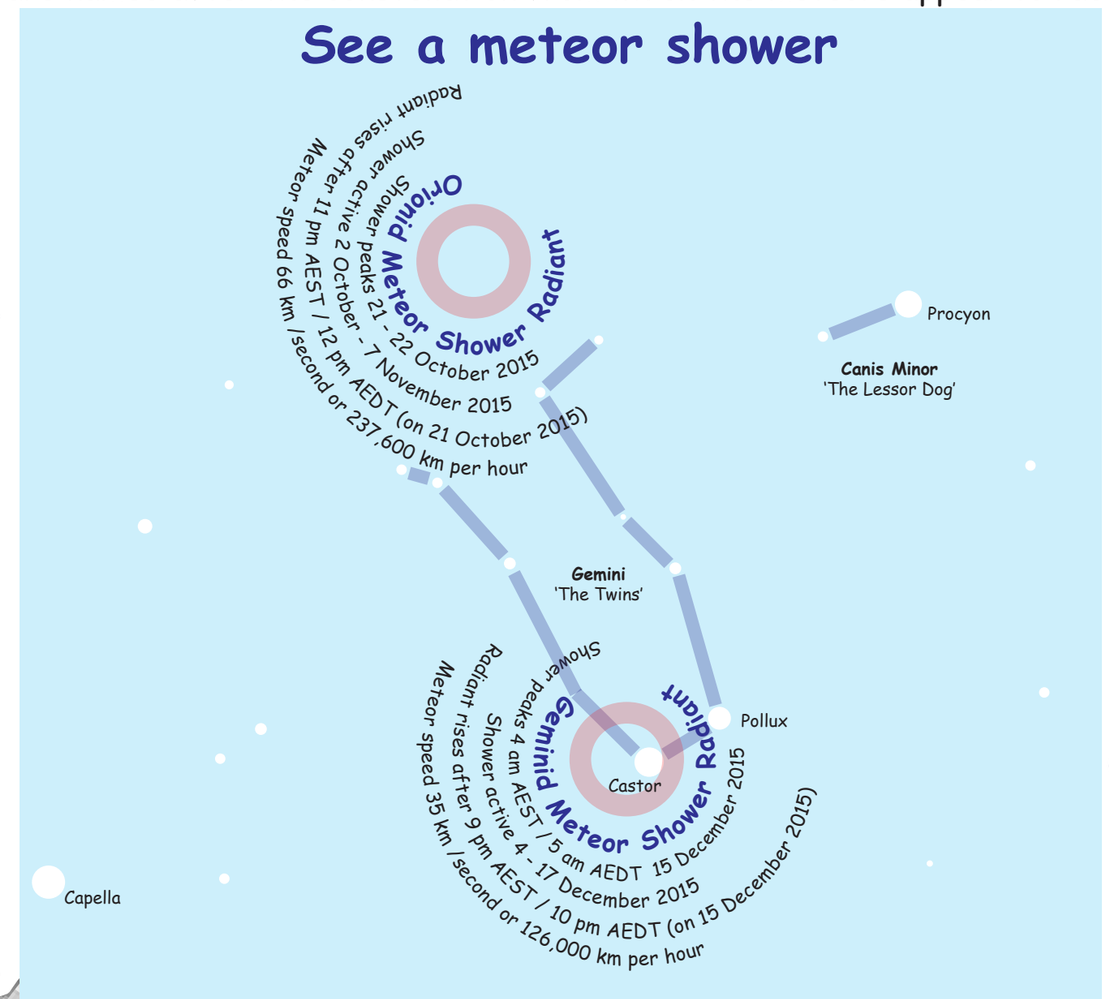
Chart prepared for 3 am AEST or 4 am AEDT . Look low above the Eastern horizon.

See a planet without a telescope

Despite what many people think, you don't need a telescope to see a planet in the night sky. The origins of the word planet (ancient Greek for 'wandering star') gives you a clue as to what you need to look for.

To make planet spotting even easier, use the Moon as a celestial signpost to find Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn at different times during October, November and December 2015.

See a meteor shower



Observing tips

Observe for at least half an hour to maximise your chances of seeing meteors.

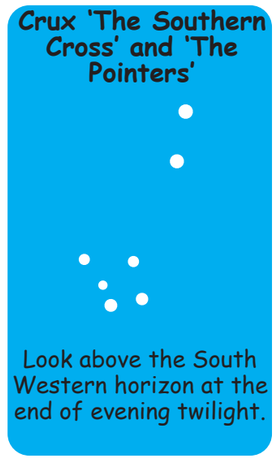
To observe the meteor shower, lie on the ground with your feet pointing towards the radiant. Look up and wait.

Chart prepared for the following dates and times:

21 October 2015	3 am AEST / 4 am AEDT
15 December 2015	12 am AEST / 1 am AEDT

Constellations

Constellations are imaginary pictures in the sky. Can you imagine a giant Cross or a Scorpion in the night sky? Use these charts to help you find the stars around which the ancient people created their constellations.



Crescent Moon	First Quarter Moon	Gibbous Moon	Full Moon
18 October	21 October	23 October	27 October
16 November	19 November	21 November	26 November
16 December	19 December	21 December	25 December

Image credits: Full Moon and courtesy NASA
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