

# Find a planet during National Science Week 2018

Why is a planet called a planet? You can discover why for yourself simply by stepping outside during National Science Week 2018. No telescope or binoculars are required.

It turns out that we have the ancient Greeks to thank for this name. It is a name that means 'wandering stars' or 'wanderers'. They noticed that five stars moved of their own accord compared to the many thousands of stars that don't.

For beginning skywatchers, the easiest way to locate a planet is use the Moon as a kind of celestial signpost. You just need to know when the Moon will pass any given planet. The Moon will be located near the following planets during National Science Week 2018.

<b>Venus</b>	-	14 and 15 August
<b>Jupiter</b>	-	17 August

The chart is prepared for an observer on the Gold Coast, Queensland for 7 pm AEST. It will be useful for other locations in Eastern Australia.

After National Science Week 2018, the Moon will be close to pale yellow Saturn on 21 August and brilliant Mars on 23 August 2018 (not shown on chart).

