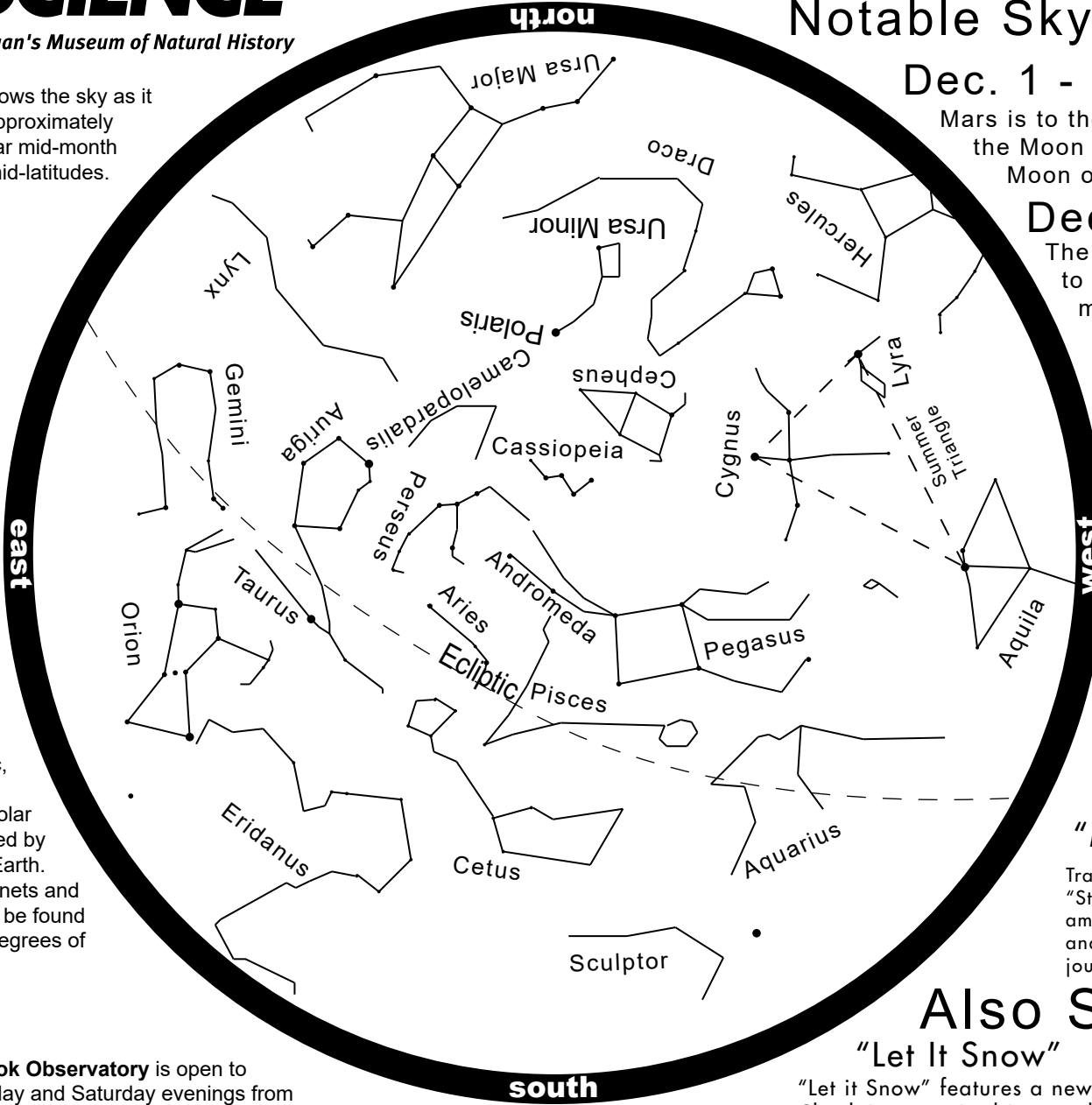




This chart shows the sky as it appears at approximately 8pm EST near mid-month at northern mid-latitudes.



What is that dashed line? It's the ecliptic, the reference plane of the solar system, defined by the Sun and Earth. The major planets and the Moon can be found within a few degrees of this plane.

### Dec. 1 - 7

Mars is to the left of Spica on the 3rd (SE predawn) and the Moon is below Aldebaran (W predawn). The Full Moon on the 3rd is the only supermoon this year.

### Dec. 8 - 14

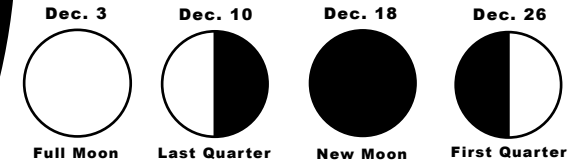
The Moon is to the right of Regulus on the 8th & to the left on the 9th (SW predawn). Geminid meteor shower peaks on the 13th & 14th. Expect 50-60 "shooting stars" per hour. Moon is above Jupiter on the 14th (ESE predawn).

### Dec. 15 - 21

Winter begins for the Northern Hemisphere at 11:28am EST on the 21st.

### Dec. 22 - 31

The Moon will cover Aldebaran from 6:16-7:14pm EST in the E on the 30th.



## Now Showing

### "Mystery of the Christmas Star"

Travel back in time 2,000 years to explore the nature of the "Star" that guided the wise men to Bethlehem. We will examine astronomical events that were occurring at the time and see if any were remarkable enough to have sparked the journey. (Extra shows are presented during the holidays.)

## Also Showing

### "Let It Snow"

"Let it Snow" features a new variety of festive classics from Frank Sinatra and Chuck Berry to Burl Ives and Brenda Lee, and includes a finale by the Trans Siberian Orchestra. The soundtrack is visually enhanced with thematic animation and all-dome scenery. This 32-minute program is a fun and entertaining experience for all ages, especially families.

The Cranbrook Observatory is open to the public Friday and Saturday evenings from 7:30 - 10:00pm EST, and the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00pm for solar viewing. Come have a look through our 6" telescope! For observatory information visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu/explore/observatory>

For astronomy information visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu>