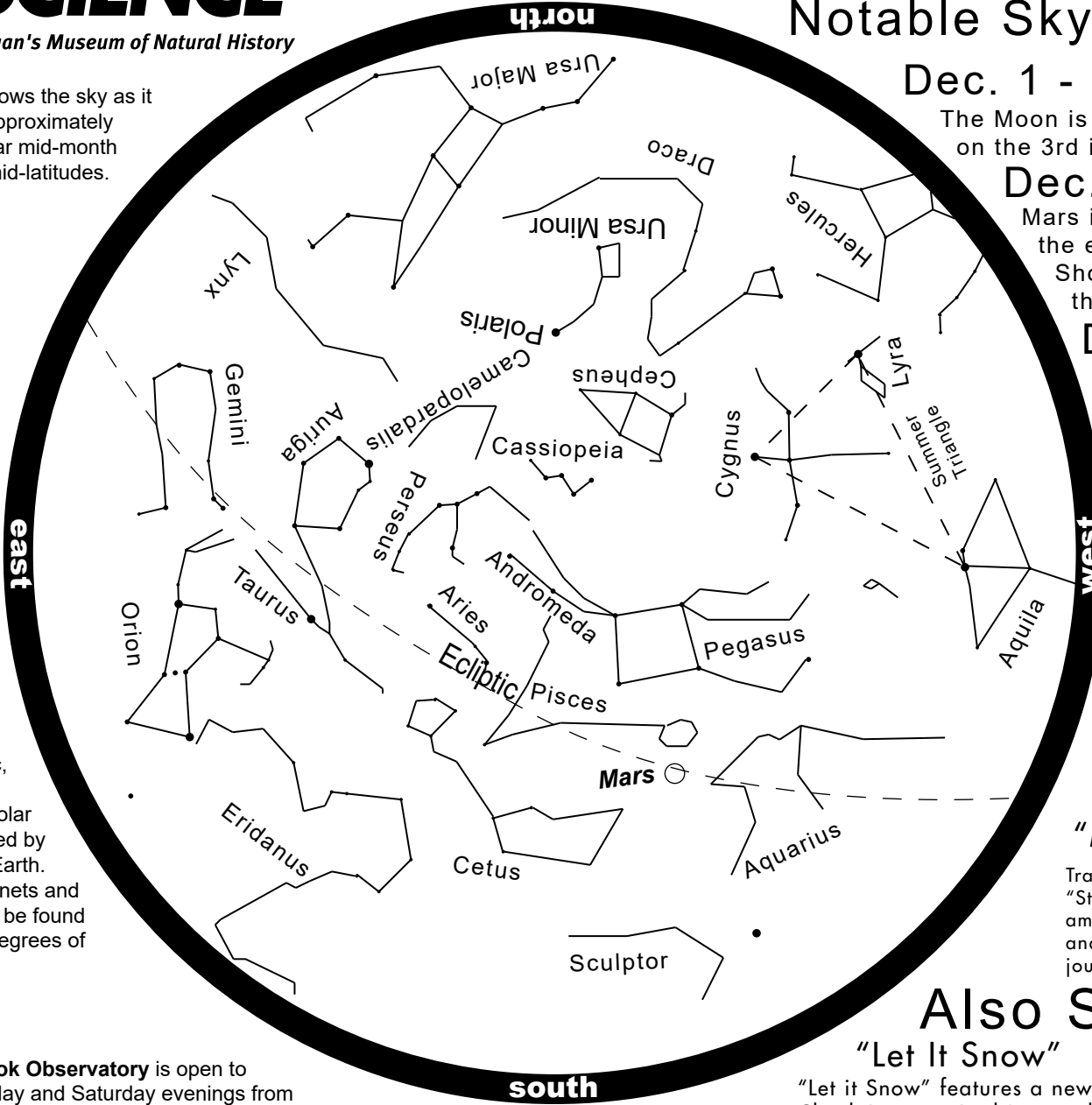




This chart shows the sky as it appears at approximately 8pm EST near mid-month at northern mid-latitudes.



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

The Moon is above Venus and to the left of the star Spica on the 3rd in the SE predawn sky.

Dec. 8 - 14

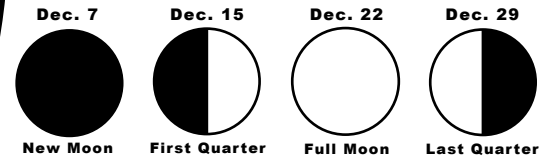
Mars is to the upper right of the Moon in the SW the evening of the 14th. The Geminid Meteor Shower (60 per hour) peaks the evening of the 14th and morning of the 15th.

Dec. 15 - 21

Moon is to the upper right of Aldebaran on the 20th (ESE evening). Winter begins for the Northern Hemisphere at 5:22pm EST on the 21st. Jupiter is to the right of Mercury 22nd (SE morning twilight).

Dec. 22 - 31

The Moon is to the right of Regulus before dawn on the 26th (WSW).



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>