

# DECEMBER 2021



## Notable Sky Happenings

### Dec. 1 - 7

Venus is in the SW evening sky this month, but will have set by chart time. The Moon is at the lower left of Spica on the 1st (SE predawn). Look for Venus below the Moon at 6:00pm on the 6th (SW). The Moon is below Saturn on the 7th (SW).

### Dec. 8 - 14

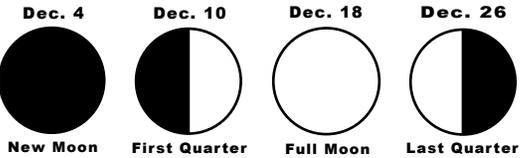
The Moon is below Jupiter on the 8th and the upper left on the 9th (SW evening). The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks the evening of the 14th-15th. It averages 60 meteors per hour, but the Moon interferes this year.

### Dec. 15 - 21

The Moon is at the lower left of Pollux with Castor at the right on the 21st (W predawn). Winter begins for the Northern Hemisphere at 10:59am EST on the 21st.

### Dec. 22 - 31

Moon is above Regulus on the 24th (SW), to the upper left of Spica on the 28th (SSE) and above Antares with Mars to the lower left on the 31st (SE; all in the predawn).



## 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.)

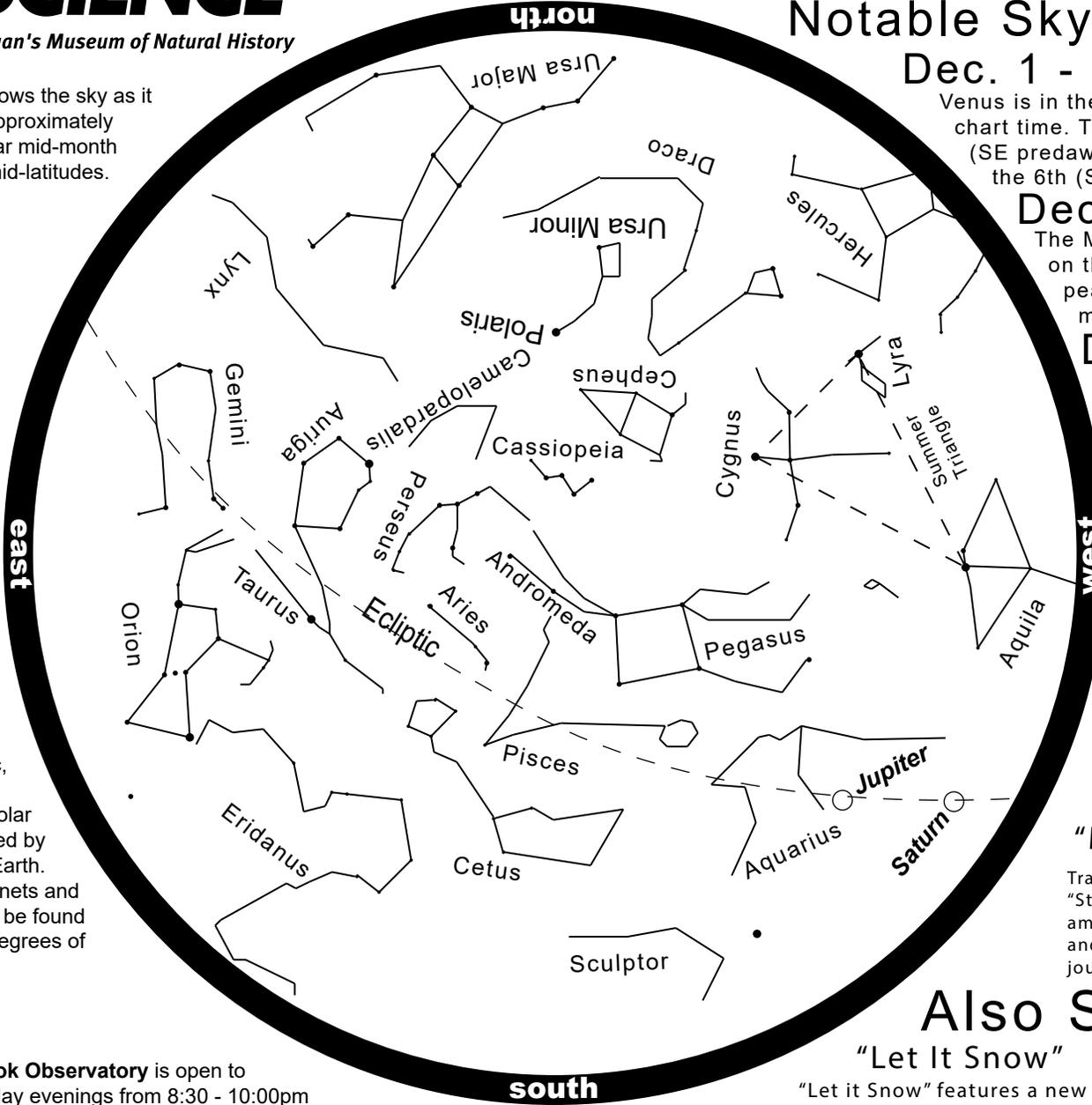
## Also Showing

### "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.

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

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.

The Cranbrook Observatory is open to the public Friday evenings from 8:30 - 10:00pm EDT, 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>