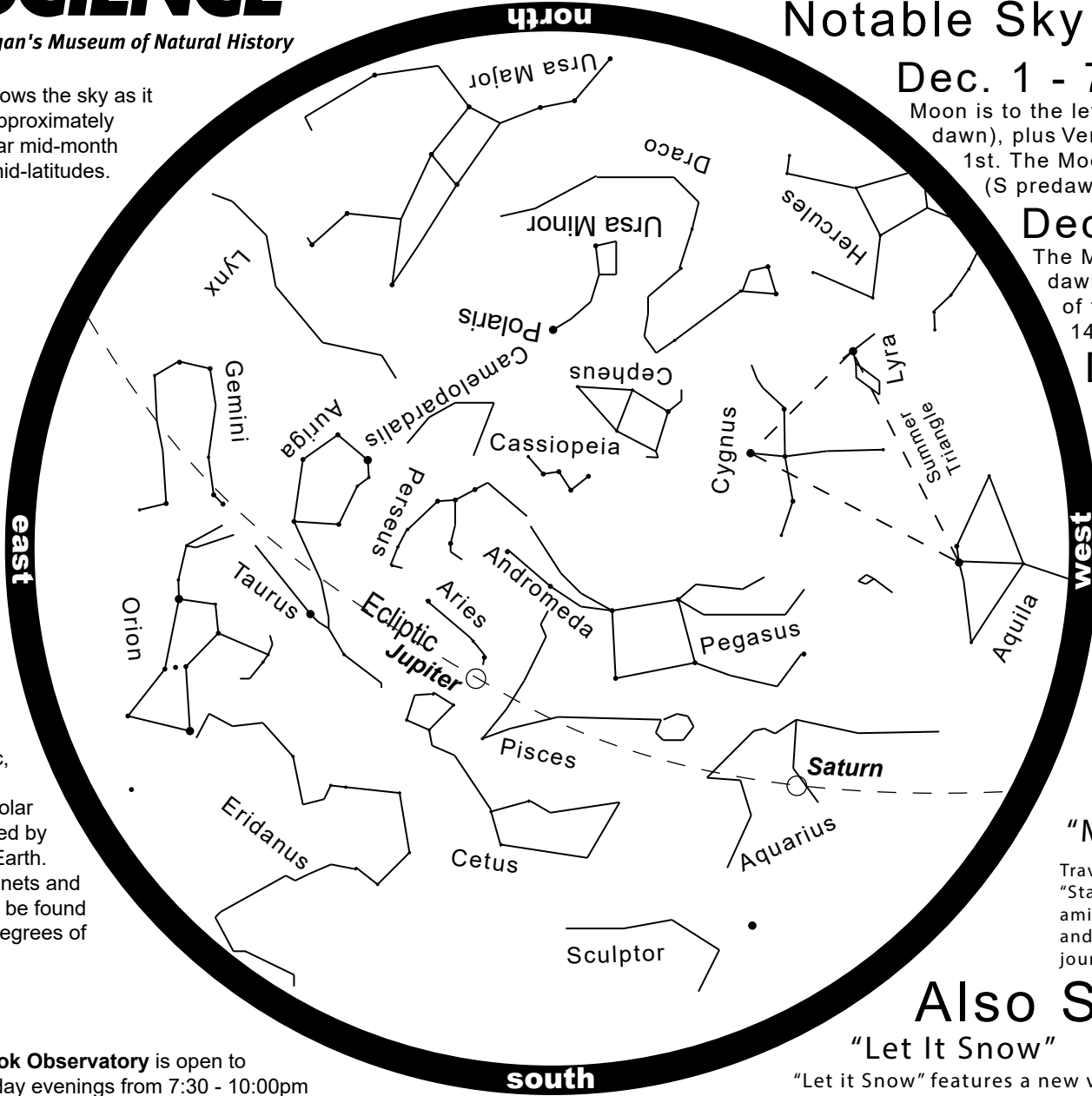


DECEMBER 2023

Notable Sky Happenings



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 7:30 - 10:00pm EST, and the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00pm for solar viewing.

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

Dec. 1 - 7

Moon is to the left of Pollux and Castor is to the right (WSW predawn), plus Venus is to the left of Spica (ESE predawn) on the 1st. The Moon is at the upper left of Regulus on the 4th (S predawn).

Dec. 8 - 14

The Moon is to the right of Venus on the 9th (SE predawn). The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks the night of the 13th and continues into the morning of the 14th. It averages about 60 meteors per hour.

Dec. 15 - 21

Moon is below and to the left of Saturn on the 17th (SW evening). Winter begins for the N. Hemisphere at 10:27pm EST on the 21st.

Dec. 22 - 31

The Moon is above and to the left of Aldebaran on the 24th (E evening), then below Pollux with Castor above on the 28th (ENE evening), then above Regulus on the 31st (SW 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>