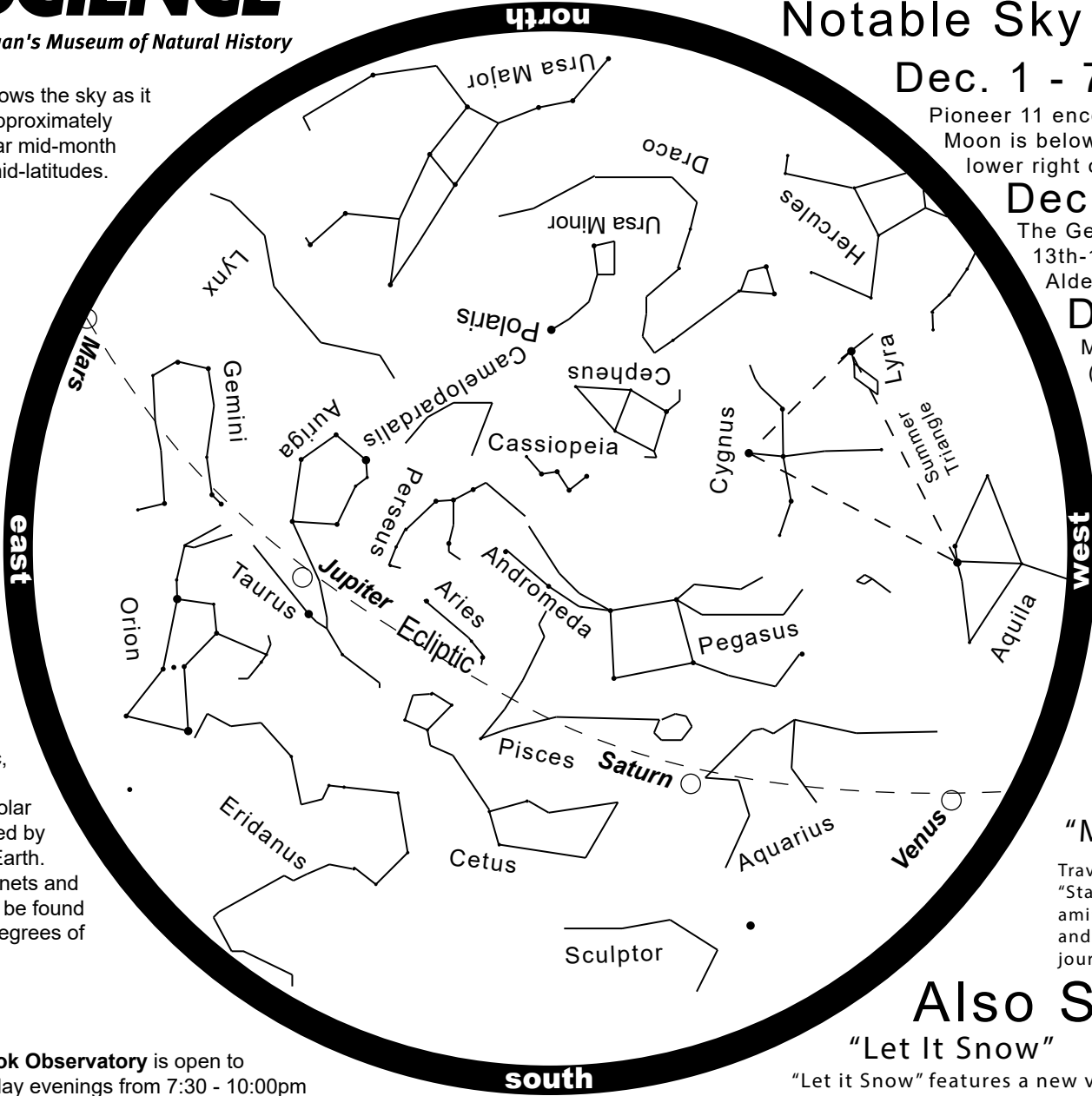


DECEMBER 2024

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.

Dec. 1 - 7

Pioneer 11 encountered Jupiter 50 years ago on the 2nd. The Moon is below Venus on the 4th (6pm EST SW) and at the lower right of Saturn on the 7th (8pm EST SW evening).

Dec. 8 - 14

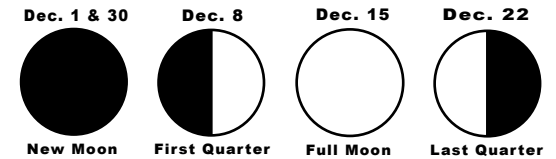
The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of the 13th-14th. The Moon is to the left of Jupiter with Aldebaran to the right on the 14th (E evening).

Dec. 15 - 21

Moon is at the lower right of Pollux on the 17th (W morning), above Mars on the 18th (WSW morn.) then above and to the left of Regulus on the 20th (WSW morning). The Dec. (winter) solstice occurs at 4:20am EST on the 21st.

Dec. 22 - 31

Moon is at the upper right of Spica on the 24th (SSE morning) and to the right of Antares on the 28th (SE predawn); Mercury is 8 degrees to the left of Antares (use binoculars).



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 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>

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