CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Michigan's Museum of Natural History

JANUARY 2024

Notable Sky Happenings

Jan. 1 - 7

Earth is closest to the Sun on the 2nd The Quadrantid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of the 3rd-4th. Bright star below and to the left the Moon on the 4th is Spica (S predawn).

Jan. 8 - 14

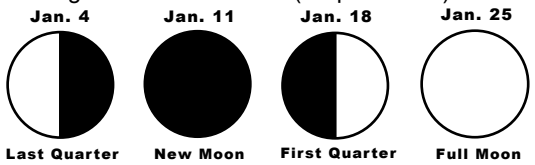
The Moon is above and to the right of Antares, Venus is to the left and Mercury is at the lower left (SE predawn on the 8th). Moon is below Saturn on the 13th and upper left on the 14th (SW evening).

Jan. 15 - 21

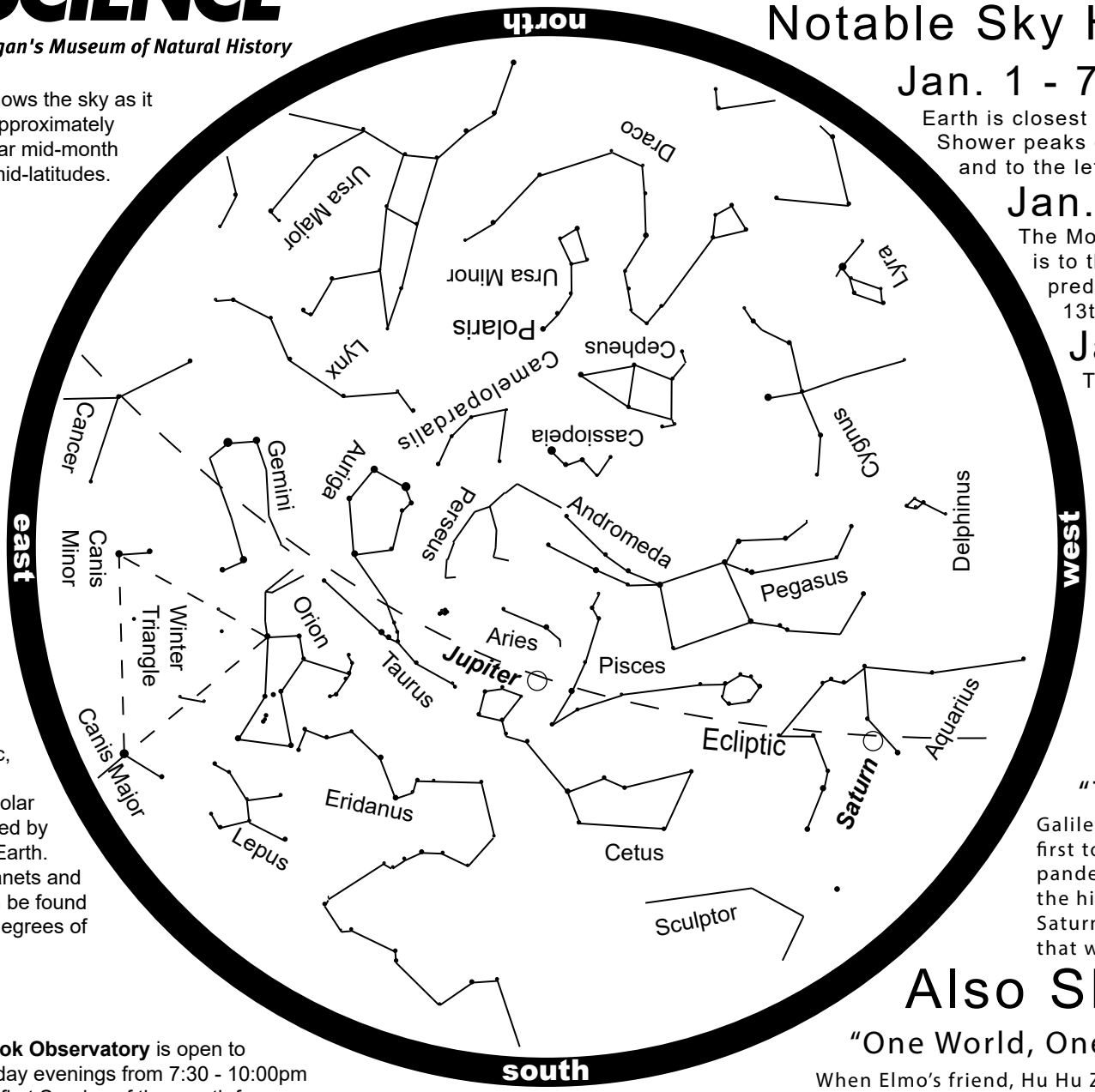
The bright "star" to the lower right of the Moon on the 18th is Jupiter (S evening).

Jan. 22 - 31

The bright star above the Moon on the 24th is Pollux in Gemini; the "twin" star, Castor, is above (ENE evening). The Moon is to the right of Regulus on the 27th (W predawn).



This chart shows the sky as it appears at approximately 7pm 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.

Now Showing

"Two Small Pieces of Glass"

Galileo did not invent the telescope, but he was the first to use it to examine the sky. Telescopes have expanded our knowledge of the cosmos. We'll learn about the history of telescopes, explore the Galilean Moons, Saturn's rings, the structure of galaxies and view images that were made through our observatory telescope.

Also Showing

"One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure"

When Elmo's friend, Hu Hu Zhu, visits from China. Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu take viewers on an exciting discovery of the Sun, Moon, and stars. They learn about the Big Dipper and the North Star and take an imaginary trip to the Moon where they learn that the Moon is a very different place.

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