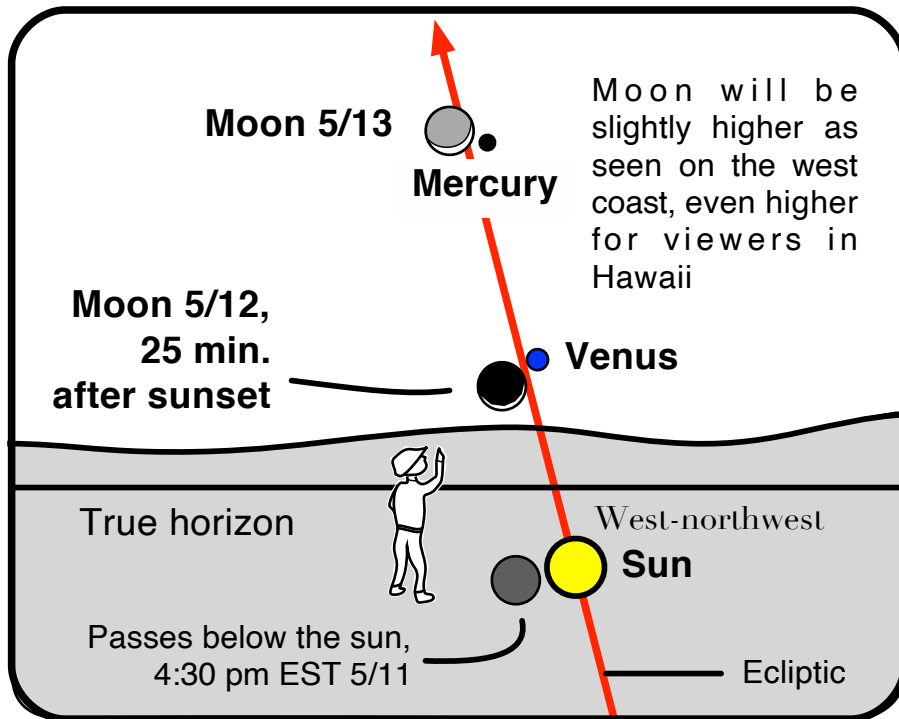
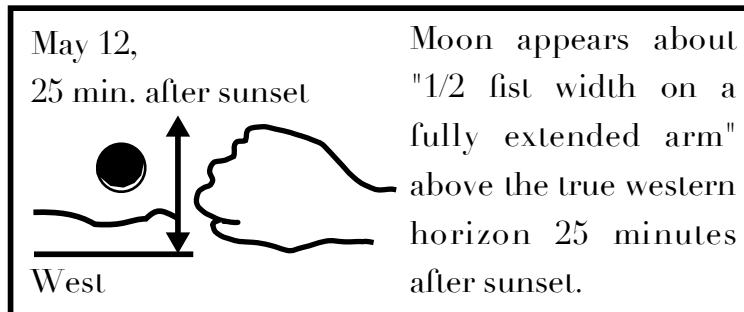


**If you can observe only one celestial event this month,
see this one:**



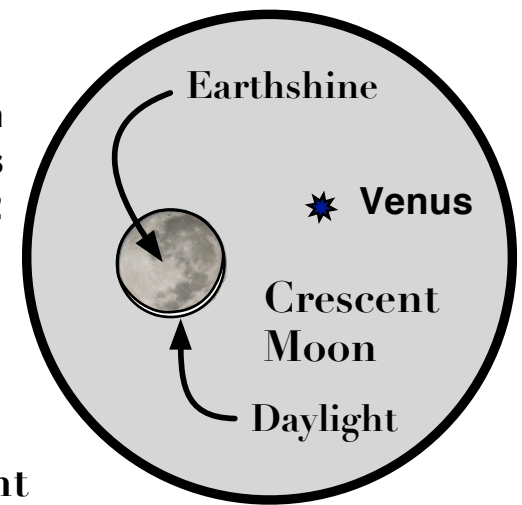
**May 12 & 13, 2021:
Young Moon 25 minutes after sunset
very low in the west. Tough to see.**



**View through
10x50 binoculars
on May 12**



**Young, thin Moon
in the evening twilight**

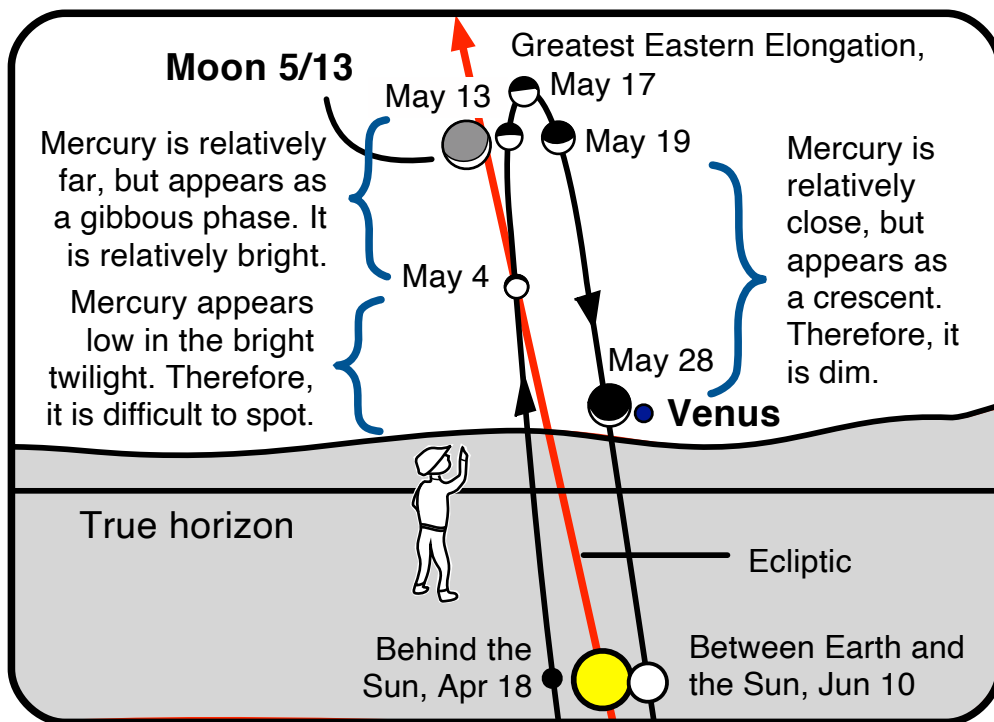


Crescent moons, sporting Earthshine, are always pretty to view. How thin of a crescent have you seen? May 12 and 13 present a good opportunity to catch a very thin moon, but binoculars may be needed. Look low into the western twilight 25 minutes after sunset on May 12 when the moon is just 1.25 days old, i.e., 1.25 days after it passed below the sun.

Its thin sliver should be a tad easier to spot for west coast observers than east coasters. Venus will lie just to its right which may aid in discerning the moon. If you are unable to find the crescent, try again the following evening when the moon is a little higher in the sky and shows a slightly thicker slice. It is then 2.25 days old and lies next to Mercury.

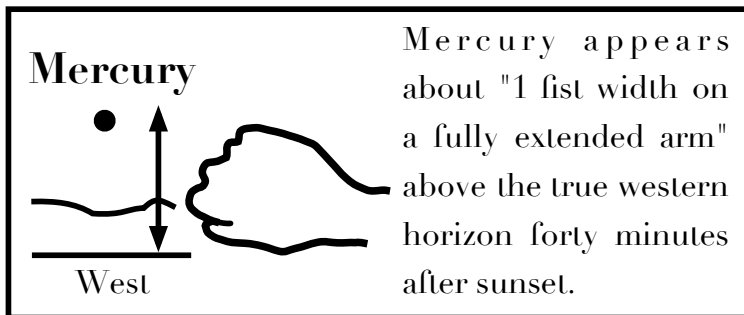
- Very clear skies and an unobstructed western horizon are needed.
- Use binoculars. The bright twilight will likely prevent Earthshine from being seen on May 12. A much better chance occurs on May 13. On May 13, the moon lies higher in the sky next to Mercury. Again, bring out the binoculars.

If you can observe only one celestial event this month, see this one:

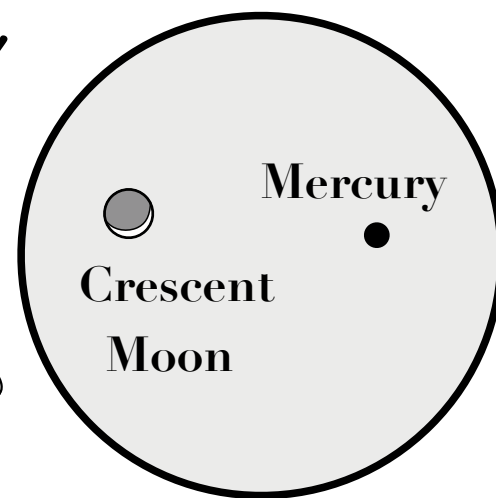


May 2021:

Mercury forty minutes after sunset in the west-northwest



**View through
10x50 binoculars
on May 13**



Mercury in the evening twilight

Have you ever spotted Mercury? Many stargazers have not. From early through mid May presents a good opportunity to catch the elusive little planet. Look low into the west-northwestern twilight forty minutes after sunset.

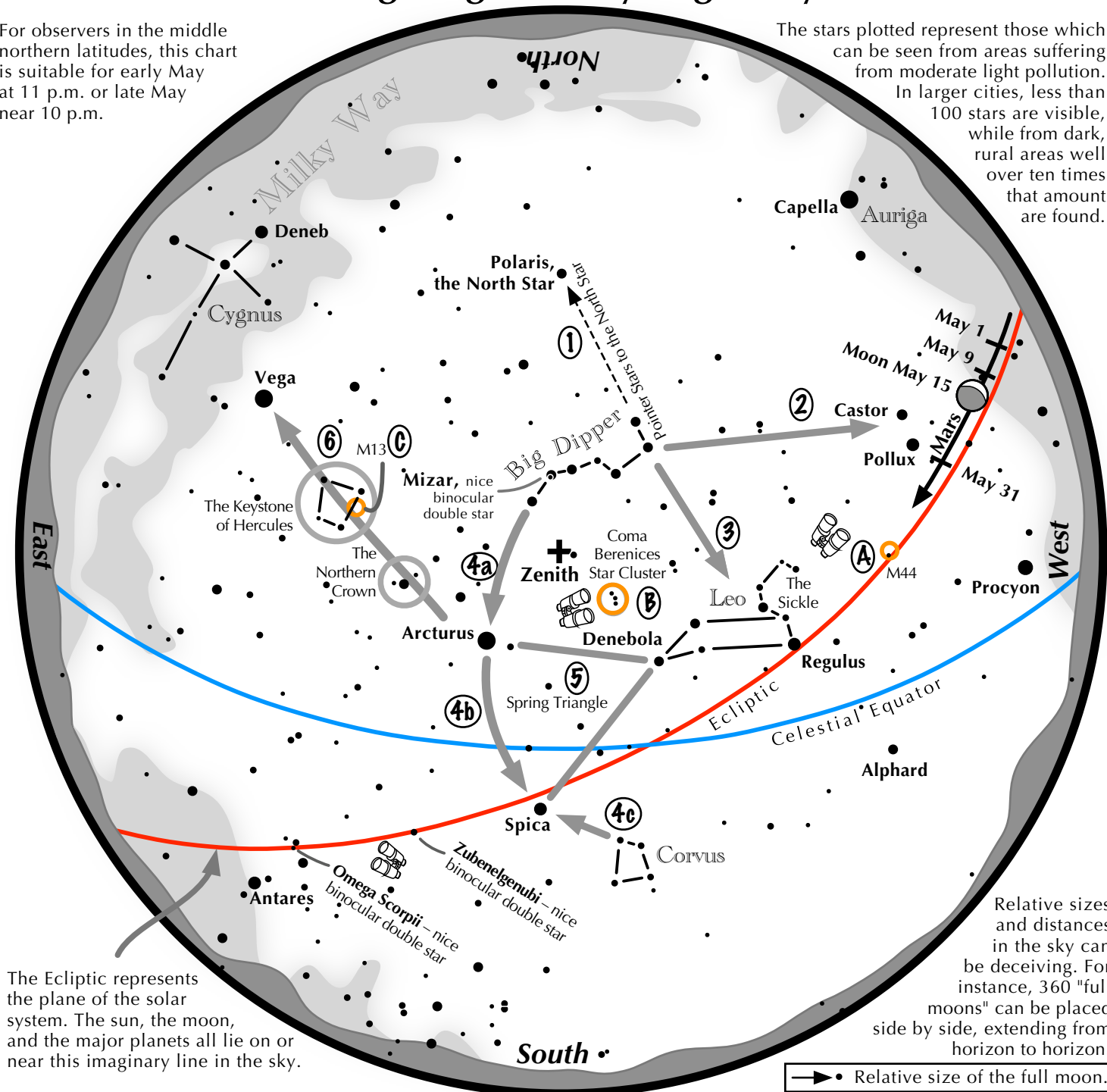
Mercury comes between the Sun and Earth on April 18, then two weeks later, it is found climbing higher above the western horizon each evening as it moves away from the Sun. Between May 4 and 19, it is bright enough and high enough in the twilight sky that it can be seen rather easily if the sky is clear and if the horizon is unobstructed. After May 19, it dims significantly, making it again difficult to spot.

- Using binoculars, look on May 13 for the crescent Moon entering the scene to the left of Mercury. Can you see Earthshine on the Moon's dark side?
- Bright Venus shines immediately above the horizon on May 28 and lies to the right of Mercury. Binoculars might be able to reveal this pairing, but the sky may prove to be too bright.

Navigating the May Night Sky

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for early May at 11 p.m. or late May near 10 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→• Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the May night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Extend a line northward from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
- 2 Through the two diagonal stars of the Dipper's bowl, draw a line pointing to the twin stars of Castor and Pollux in Gemini.
- 3 Directly below the Dipper's bowl reclines the constellation Leo with its primary star, Regulus.
- 4 Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It first intersects Arcturus, then continues to Spica. Confirm Spica by noting that two moderately bright stars just to its southwest form a straight line with it.
- 5 Arcturus, Spica, and Denebola form the Spring Triangle, a large equilateral triangle.
- 6 Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. One-third of the way sits "The Northern Crown." Two-thirds of the way hides the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.

Binocular Highlights

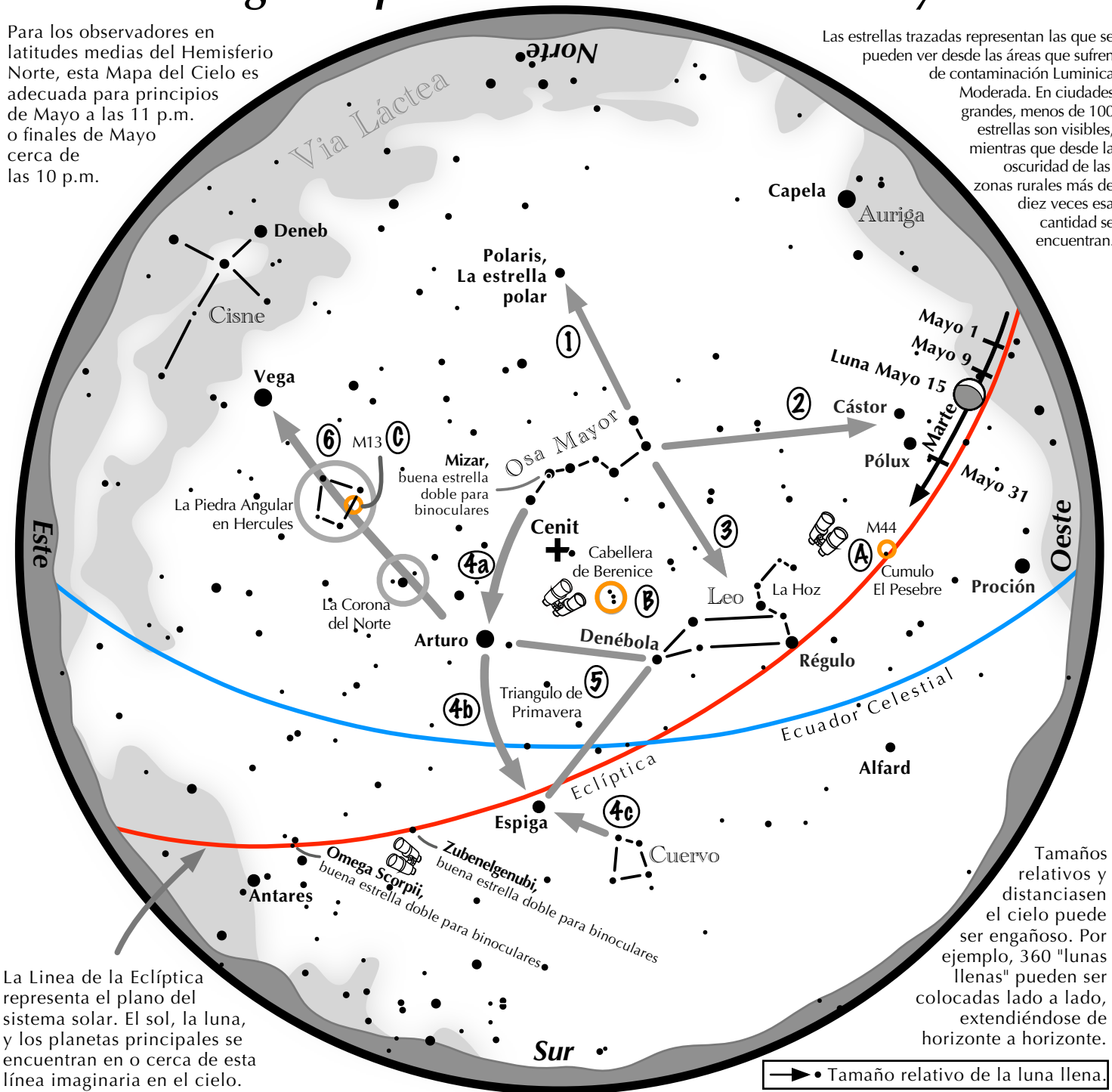
A: M44, a star cluster barely visible to the naked eye, lies to the southeast of Pollux. **B:** Look near the zenith for the loose star cluster of Coma Berenices. **C:** M13, a round glow from a cluster of over 500,000 stars.



Navegando por el cielo nocturno de Mayo

Para los observadores en latitudes medias del Hemisferio Norte, esta Mapa del Cielo es adecuada para principios de Mayo a las 11 p.m. o finales de Mayo cerca de las 10 p.m.

Las estrellas trazadas representan las que se pueden ver desde las áreas que sufren de contaminación Luminica Moderada. En ciudades grandes, menos de 100 estrellas son visibles, mientras que desde la oscuridad de las zonas rurales más de diez veces esa cantidad se encuentran.



La Línea de la Eclíptica representa el plano del sistema solar. El sol, la luna, y los planetas principales se encuentran en o cerca de esta línea imaginaria en el cielo.

Tamaños relativos y distancias en el cielo pueden ser engañosos. Por ejemplo, 360 "lunas llenas" pueden ser colocadas lado a lado, extendiéndose de horizonte a horizonte.

→ • Tamaño relativo de la luna llena.

Navegando por el cielo nocturno: simplemente comience con lo que sabe o con lo que puede encontrar fácilmente.

- 1 Haz una línea hacia el norte desde las dos estrellas en la punta de la Osa Mayor. Pasa por Polaris, la estrella polar.
- 2 A través de las dos estrellas diagonales de la Osa Mayor, dibuja una línea que apunta a las estrellas gemelas de Cástor y Pólux en Géminis.
- 3 Directamente debajo del tazón de la Osa Mayor se encuentra Leo con su estrella principal, Régulo.
- 4 Siga el arco del mango del tazón de la Osa Mayor. Primero cruza Arturo, luego continúa hacia Espiga, luego Cuervo.
- 5 Arturo, Espiga y Denébola forman el triángulo de primavera, un gran triángulo equilátero.
- 6 Dibuja una línea desde Arturo a Vega. Un tercio del camino se encuentra "La Corona del Norte". Dos tercios de esa distancia llevan a la "piedra angular de Hércules." Se necesita un cielo oscuro para ver estas dos configuraciones estelares tenues.

Puntos destacados con binoculares

A: M44 (Cumulo El Pesebre), un cúmulo de estrellas apenas perceptible a simple vista, se encuentra al sureste de Pólux. **B:** Mira alto en el este para ver el cúmulo de estrellas perdidas de Cabellera de Berenice. **C:** M13, un brillo redondo de un cumulo de más de 500,000 estrellas.

