

THE VISIBLE SKY

MERCURY - The inner-most planet is visible low in the west-northwest the first 10 days of the month. Mercury reaches aphelion; the most distant point in its orbit from the Sun, on May 25.

VENUS - Brilliant Venus is visible low in east before sunrise. Dimmer reddish Mars is to the lower left. The Moon is nearby on May 21. (See diagram)

EARTH / MOON - May 1 is the cross-quarter day between the Vernal, or Spring, Equinox and the Summer Solstice.

MARS - The red planet is low in the east before dawn to the lower left of much brighter Venus. The crescent Moon is above Mars on May 21. (See diagram)

JUPITER - Jupiter is visible in the southeast before dawn between the faint zodiac constellations Capricornus and Aquarius. The distant planet Neptune is just above Jupiter the third week of this month. The Moon is nearby on May 17. (See diagram)

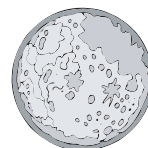
SATURN - The ringed planet is our only evening planet right now. At the beginning of the month, look for Saturn high in the south after dark. By month's end it will be in the southwest. The Moon will be near Saturn on May 3 and again on May 30 and 31. (See diagrams)

OUTER PLANETS - Uranus is low in the east-southeast before dawn in the western end of Pisces. Neptune is slightly higher in the southeast near Jupiter. You need at least binoculars to see these two distant gas planets.

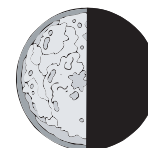
PHASES OF THE MOON



FIRST QUARTER
MAY 1/30



FULL MOON
MAY 9



THIRD QUARTER
MAY 17



NEW MOON
MAY 24