

SKY CALENDAR JANUARY 2022

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.



Evening Planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury, and Venus

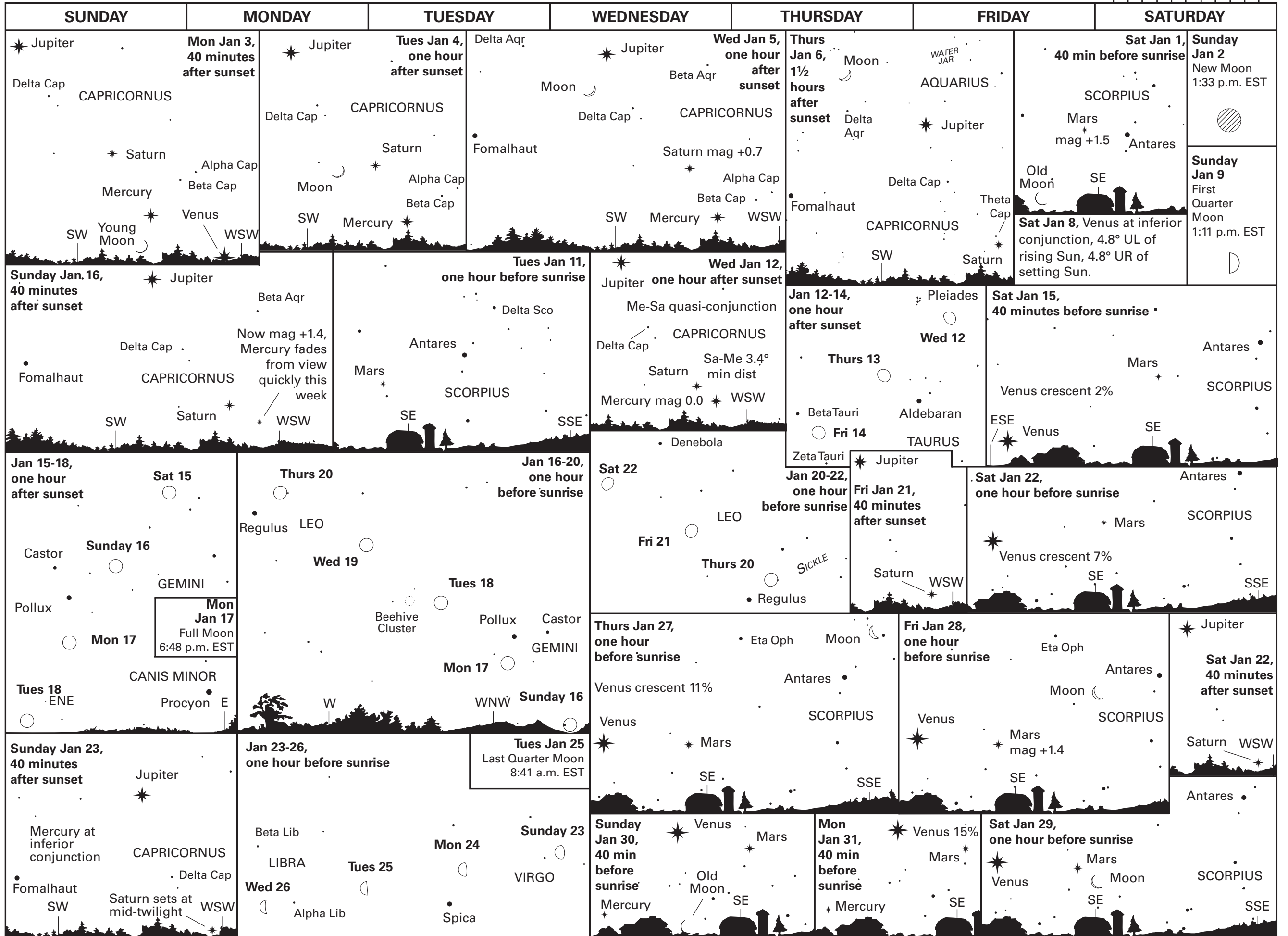
can all be spotted at dusk in the southwest at the start of the month. Venus drops from view in the first week of the year. Mercury fades away mid-month. Saturn is lost in the Sun's glare in the last week of the month. Use a telescope or binoculars to observe the crescent shape of Venus. Venus is just a 1% crescent on January 3. Venus is at inferior conjunction January 8 when Venus passes 4.8° north of the Sun. *Observing challenge:* How close to the date of the conjunction can you spot Venus after sunset or before sunrise?

Morning Planets: Look for **Mars** low in the southeast. Mars slowly climbs higher as the month progresses. **Venus** emerges into the dawn sky soon after its inferior conjunction January 8. **Mercury**, at inferior conjunction January 23, emerges into the dawn sky at the end of the month, but doesn't become easy to spot in the dawn twilight until late in first week of February 2022.

The **Quadrantid meteor shower** peaks January 3, just two days after a New Moon leaving the sky dark. But this short lived shower peaks during daylight hours for North America so it won't be visible. Observers in Asian and Eastern European longitudes will have a better view. The Quadrantid meteor shower is named after the now defunct constellation *The Mural Quadrant*. *The Mural Quadrant* was located in the area of the sky between the handle of the Big Dipper, the head of Boötes the Herdsman, and the tail of Draco the Dragon.

The **Earth is at perihelion** on January 4, 2022. At that time, Earth is 0.983 AU or 91.4 million miles from the Sun.

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John S. French, Robert C. Victor
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