

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for mid February at 8 p.m. or late February at 7 p.m.

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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.

North

East

West

South

The Big Dipper

Polaris, the North Star

Pointer Stars to the North Star

Double Cluster

Cassiopeia

Perseus

Andromeda

Great Square of Pegasus

Leo

The Sickle

Regulus

Ecliptic

M44

Capella

Auriga

Zenith

Aldebaran

The Pleiades

Mars

2/01

Moon Feb 9

Moon Feb 8

2/28

The Hyades

4a

3

Betelgeuse

Orion

Rigel

M42

Sirius

M41

Canis Major

Winter Triangle

Procyon

2c

2b

2a

1

4b

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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.

- 1** Above the northeast horizon rises the Big Dipper. Draw a line from its two end bowl stars upwards to the North Star.
- 2** Face south. Overhead twinkles the bright star Capella in Auriga. Jump northwestward along the Milky Way first to Perseus, then to the "W" of Cassiopeia. Next jump southeastward from Capella to the twin stars of Castor and Pollux in Gemini.
- 3** Directly south of Capella stands the constellation of Orion with its three Belt stars, its bright red star Betelgeuse, and its bright blue-white star Rigel.
- 4** Use Orion's three Belt stars to point northwest to the red star Aldebaran and the Hyades star cluster, then to the Pleiades star cluster. Travel southeast from the Belt stars to the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius, a member of the Winter Triangle.

- A:** Examine the stars of two naked eye star clusters, the Pleiades and the Hyades.  
**B:** Between the "W" of Cassiopeia and Perseus lies the Double Cluster.  
**C:** The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval.  
**D:** M42 in Orion is a star forming nebula. **E:** Look south of Sirius for the star cluster M41. **F:** M44, a star cluster barely visible to the naked eye, lies southeast of Pollux.

