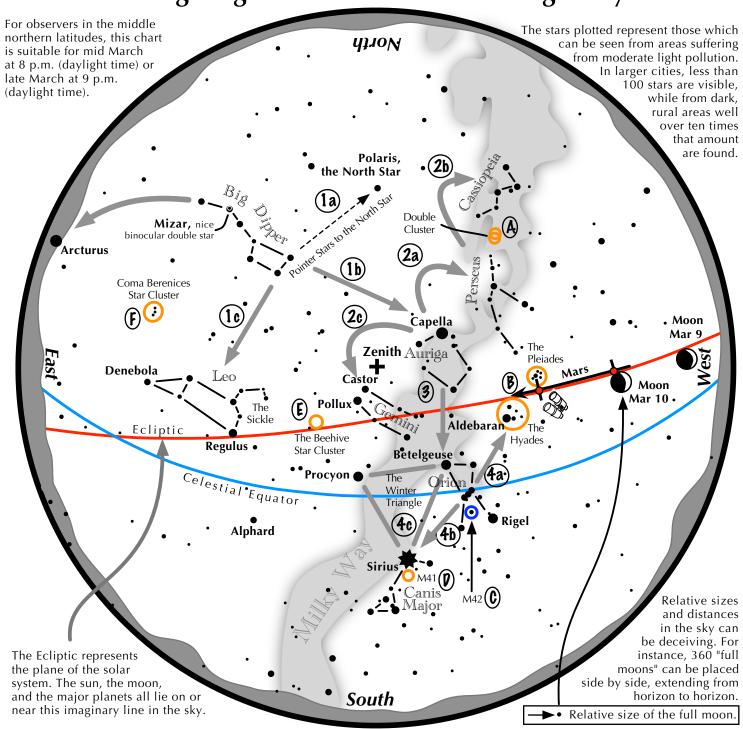
Navigating the mid to late March Night Sky



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

- Above the northeast horizon rises the Big Dipper. Draw a line from its two end bowl stars upwards to the North Star. Its top bowl stars point west to Capella in Auriga, nearly overhead. Leo reclines below the Dipper's bowl.
- **2** From Capella jump northwestward along the Milky Way 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. It is a member of the Winter Triangle.

Binocular Highlights

A: Between the "W" of Cassiopeia and Perseus lies the Double Cluster. B: Examine the stars of the Pleiades and Hyades, two naked eye star clusters. C: M42 in Orion is a star forming nebula. D: Look south of Sirius for the star cluster M41. E: M44, a star cluster barely visible to the naked eye, lies to the southeast of Pollux. F: Look high in the east for the loose star cluster of Coma Berenices.

