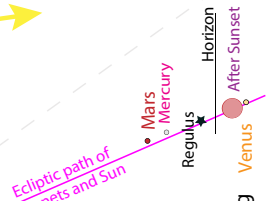
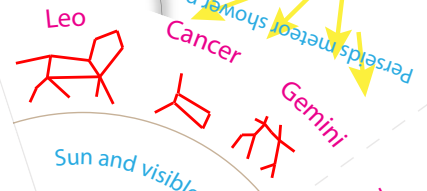
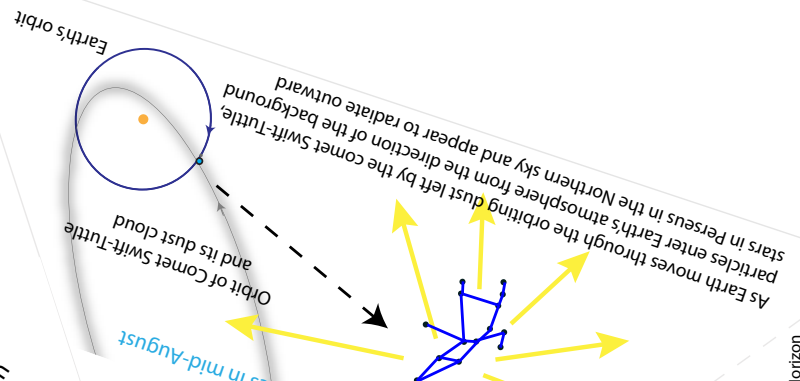


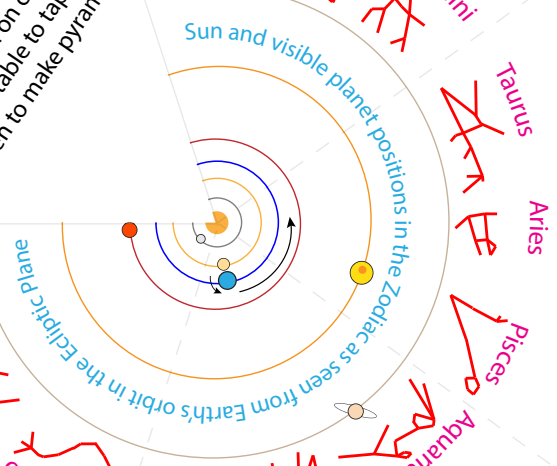


- 1 Print double-sided (heavy paper best)
- 2 Cut out this wedge from pentagon
- 3 Kids punch out stars with pushpin, or dab with glow-in-dark glue
- 4 Fold inward on stars with pushpin
- 5 Lay flat on table with tape edge
- 6 Open to make pyramid



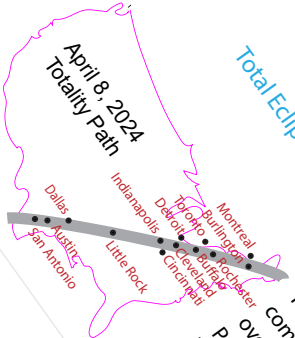
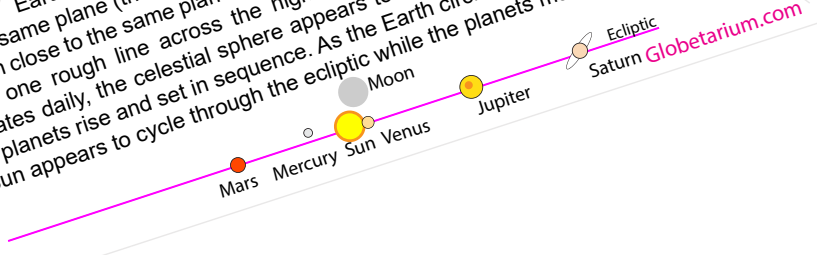
All week: Mercury and Mars visible right after sunset along the Ecliptic above the bright star Regulus, then set in sequence. Venus invisible in the Sun's glare then emerges before dawn later in week, joining Jupiter and Saturn. New Moon on August 15 invisible next to Sun, before becoming a waxing Crescent Moon later in the week.

Morning and Night Sky
August 14-20, 2023



Why are the Sun, Moon, and Planets in a line?

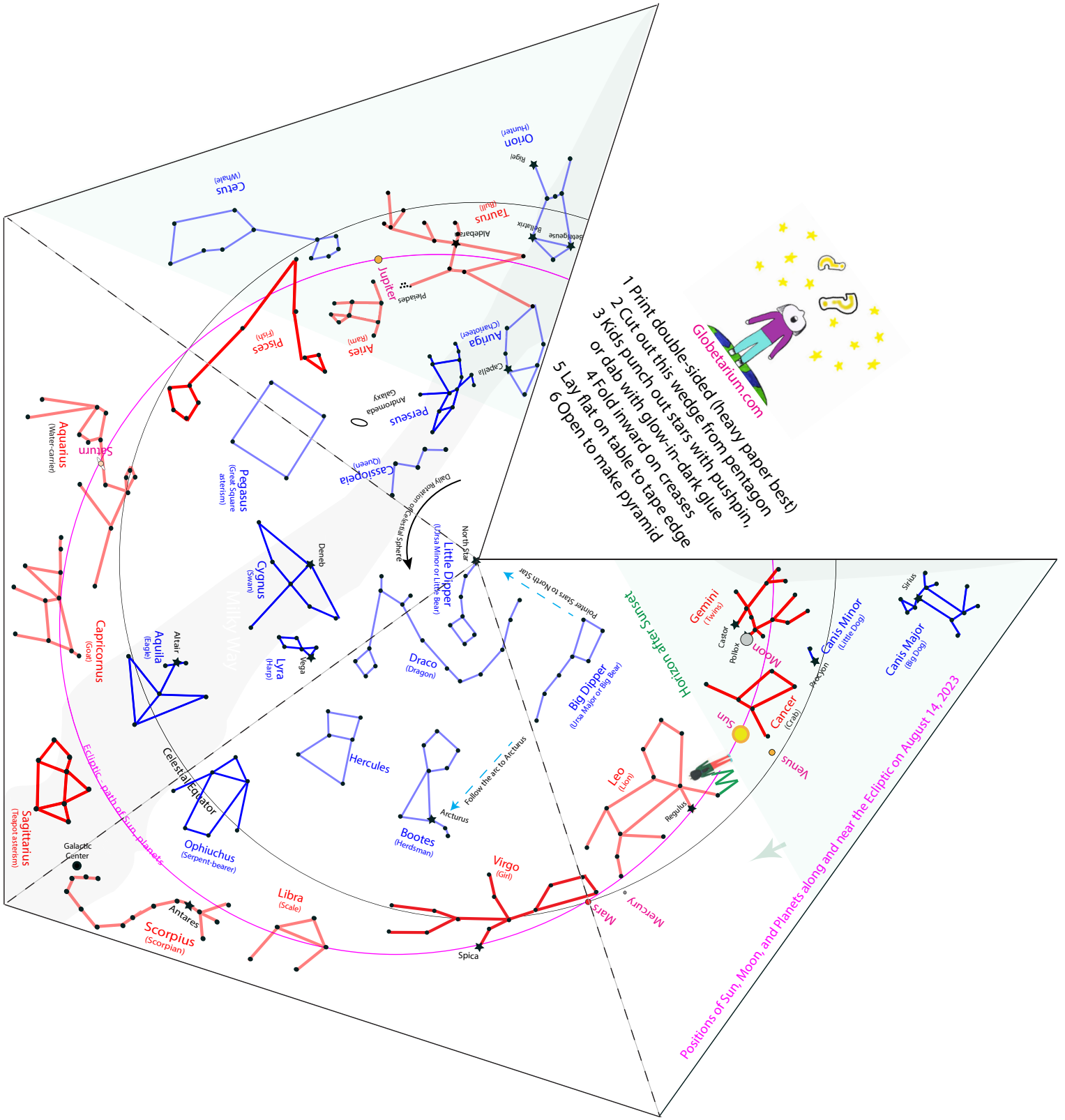
Earth and the visible planets orbit the Sun in nearly the same plane (the ecliptic plane), and the Moon orbits the Earth in close to the same plane. So we see the Sun, Moon, and planets in one rough line across the night sky (the ecliptic). As the Earth rotates daily, the celestial sphere appears to rotate, and the Sun, Moon, and planets rise and set in sequence. As the Earth circles the Sun each year, the Sun appears to cycle through the ecliptic while the planets move along it.



Total Eclipse Countdown: 34 weeks!

After this year's partial eclipse on October 14, next year's total eclipse will completely block the Sun for over four minutes on the Totality Path. Each month the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth (New Moon) once and crosses the ecliptic plane twice. When they happen at the same time the Moon blocks the Sun, creating an eclipse.

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