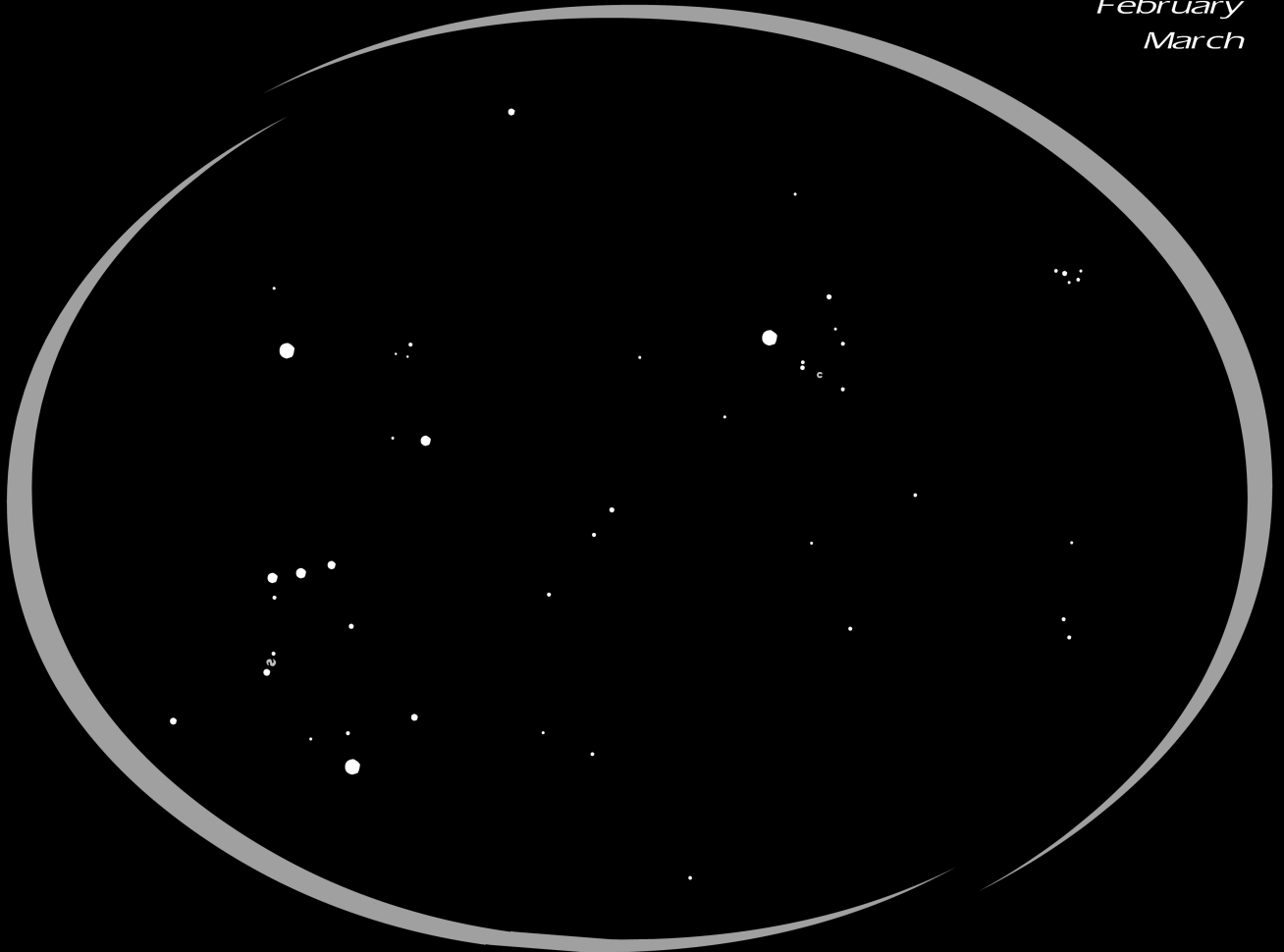




ORION AND TAURUS

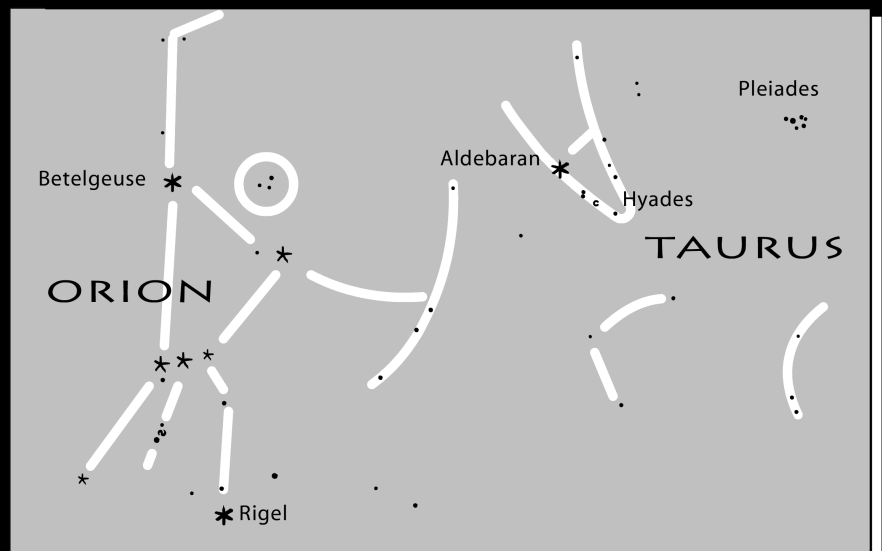
December
January
February
March



This is how Orion and Taurus will appear at 8:00 PM from December through March:

MONTH	LOOK IN THE
DECEMBER	EAST
JANUARY	SOUTHEAST
FEBRUARY	SOUTH
MARCH	SOUTHWEST

-  Marks the Orion Nebula
-  Marks the Hyades Star Cluster



ORION AND TAURUS

Stargazing for:

DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH

WHAT YOU NEED: the Star Map and Sky Search sheet for Orion & Taurus, binoculars, and a clear dark sky. Possibly a compass and flashlight.

WHAT TO DO:

- Check the Planet Locator chart to see if any planets are up tonight.
- Go outside around 8 or 9 pm and use your star map to find Orion and Taurus in the sky.
- Study the points of interest for Orion and Taurus using your eyes and your binoculars.
- Explore the rest of tonight's sky, and complete the Sky Search sheet.
- Optional: If you have more powerful binoculars or a telescope, use them to look at these interesting objects in the sky.

POINTS of INTEREST for **ORION**

THE ORION CONSTELLATION

The Orion constellation represents a hunter fighting Taurus the bull. Orion is easily recognizable by his three-star belt.

COLORED STARS

Young stars burn with a bluish tint. Older stars turn yellow or reddish. The trouble is, your night vision does not see colors, so all the stars look white. But if you look very carefully you can see a little bit of color in some of the stars. Try these two:

BETELGEUSE is a red supergiant. It's so large that if it were our sun, we would actually be inside the star! [Top Left in Picture]

RIGEL is also very bright. It appears bluish, and is on the opposite side of Orion's belt as Betelgeuse. [Bottom Right in Picture]



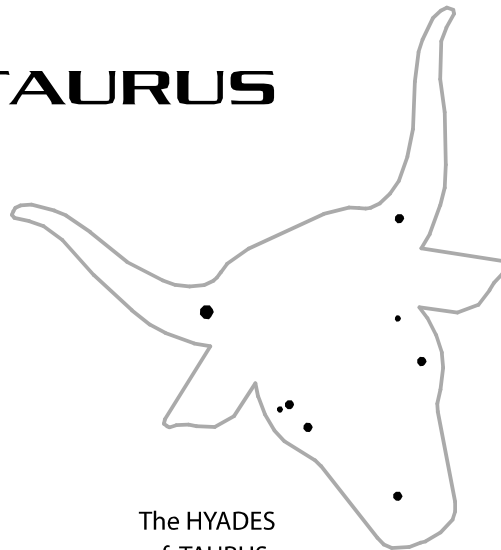
THE ORION NEBULA

Hanging from Orion's belt are a few faint stars representing his hunting knife. Check these stars with the binoculars and you will see more stars than you can see with just your eyes. Some of these may look a bit fuzzy. This is because these stars are in a nebula, or space cloud. Scientists believe that new stars are forming out of the gases of the nebula.

POINTS of INTEREST for TAURUS

THE TAURUS CONSTELLATION

Taurus is easily recognized since it actually looks a little like the head of a bull, with a pointy nose and two horns. Taurus is charging at Orion.



The HYADES
of TAURUS

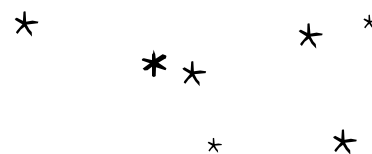
THE HYADES

This is a cluster of stars that make up the face of the Bull. Just check it with binoculars and you will see many little stars in that area. Compare this to other parts of the sky.

THE PLEIADES

The Pleiades have been used as a test of eyesight and of the clearness of the night. How many stars do you see in the Pleiades? Six is pretty good. Seven is excellent. But there are actually many more stars than that, hundreds at last count. Your binoculars will reveal some of these!

The Pleiades is considered a stellar nursery, a place where baby stars are being formed. The Japanese call the Pleiades "SUBARU". Look at the emblem on a Subaru car some time and you'll see what I mean.



PLEIADES

DECEMBER
JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH

SKY SEARCH

CHECK OFF WHAT YOU SEE

STARDATE _____ ASTRONOMER _____

PLANETS

Which can you see?

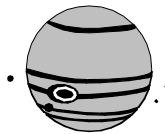
Mercury

Jupiter

Venus

Saturn

Mars



MOON

Phase: _____

Maria (seas)

Craters

STARS

The Orion Constellation

The Taurus Constellation

The Pleiades (with binoculars)
How many Pleiades
stars can you see? _____

The Hyades (with binoculars)

Betelgeuse
A very bright red-yellow star in Orion

Rigel
A very bright blue star in Orion

Do you see any other colored
stars?
Red? Yellow? Blue?

NEBULA

The Orion Nebula (with binoculars)
Looks like:

SHOOTING STARS

How Many? _____

How long did you look? _____

What part of the sky were they
coming from? _____

COMET

Name: _____
Is the tail visible?

OTHER FLYING OBJECTS

Airplanes & Helicopters

Satellites & Spaceships

Can't Identify it? Describe it:



