



Spring is in the air — and in the night sky if you look closely

Description

March is a month of fresh beginnings. After the cold winter, we start to enjoy longer days and the return of bright stars. For those who love watching the sky, March is an exciting time. This is because spring starts with the vernal equinox, which happens on March 19, at 11:06 p.m. Eastern time.

March is significant for star watchers. In March, the vernal equinox takes place. This is when the center of the sun's disc crosses the celestial equator, moving to the northern hemisphere of the sky. Many ancient cultures believed this to be the traditional beginning of the new year. Even today, this event helps to decide the dates of festive days and times of fasting in several religions.

Spring equinox is also known as the “first point of Aries.” This phrase comes from astrology and refers to an old belief from Babylonian times. Back then, they thought the equinox occurred in the constellation of Aries. But today, it happens in the constellation of Pisces.

The word "equinox" means that day and night are the same length. This year, the day when light and dark share the sky equally is March 16. On this day, the sun rises at 7:17 a.m. and sets at 7:17 p.m.

One bright planet you may be able to see in March is Jupiter. It shines in the western sky during evening hours. Around 30 to 45 minutes after sunset from March 17 to 31, you might spot Mercury. It will be close to the western horizon. If you have binoculars, use them!

March is a perfect month to explore the night sky. So, let's go outside and watch the universe unfold. As the days pass, the stars of winter set, and new constellations take their place. So make the most of March, and enjoy the view!

Vocabulary List:

1. **Equinox** // (noun): The time or date (twice each year) at which the sun crosses the celestial equator when day and night are of equal length (about March 21 and September 23).
2. **Vernal** // (adjective): Relating to or occurring in the spring.
3. **Hemisphere** // (noun): A half of a sphere.
4. **Aries** // (noun): The first sign of the zodiac.
5. **Babylonian** // (adjective): Relating to Babylonian ancient city in Mesopotamia.
6. **Constellation** // (noun): A group of stars forming a recognizable pattern.

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term used to describe being ready for a potential emergency?
Option: Resources
Option: Congested
Option: Diversions
Option: Preparedness
2. What term is used to indicate the release of something like a patient from a hospital?
Option: Standby
Option: Discharge
Option: Hopeful
Option: Impressive
3. Which condition is characterized by challenges with social skills and repetitive behaviors?
Option: Thrived
Option: Unfavourable
Option: Autism
Option: Abundant
4. Which type of cells have the potential to develop into many different cell types in the body?
Option: Looter-shooter
Option: Genes
Option: Stem cells
Option: Social behaviour
5. What term describes something that brings about significant change or innovation?
Option: Syndrome
Option: Innovative
Option: Revolutionary
Option: Avant-garde
6. Which term describes something that is clear and easily understood?
Option: Transparent
Option: Augmented reality
Option: Groundbreaking
Option: Equinox
7. What is half of the Earth divided either north-south or east-west?
Option: Vernal
Option: Hemisphere
Option: Aries



Option: Babylonian

8. What term refers to a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure?

Option: Constellation

Option: Collaborate

Option: Innovative

Option: Revolutionary

9. Which word describes an area that is overcrowded or full of traffic?

Option: Transparent

Option: Augmented reality

Option: Congested

Option: Groundbreaking

10. What term describes feeling or inspiring optimism for the future?

Option: Revolutionary

Option: Innovative

Option: Hopeful

Option: Avant-garde

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. During the disaster the lack of _____ posed a significant challenge for the relief efforts.

12. The emergency response team was on _____ ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

13. Despite the difficult circumstances the community _____ and supported one another.

14. The company took an _____ approach to product development leading to unique solutions in the market.

15. The mobile app uses _____ to overlay digital information onto the real world.

16. The _____ is the time of year when day and night are of equal length.

17. People born between March 21 and April 19 fall under the zodiac sign of _____.

18. The ancient _____ civilization made significant contributions to mathematics and



astronomy.

19. Your _____ play a big role in determining your physical characteristics.

20. The artist was known for his _____ style pushing the boundaries of traditional art.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The garden was filled with a variety of colorful flowers and lush vegetation.
22. The scientist studied the makeup of the rare species to understand its uniqueness.
23. Anthropologists observe primates to learn more about their complex interactions and group dynamics.
24. The new video game combines elements of fast-paced action and strategic gameplay.
25. The invention transformed the industry by introducing a completely new approach to production.
26. The research findings opened up new possibilities and avenues for exploration in the field.
27. The company's policy on data privacy was clear and easily understandable to all users.
28. Despite the challenges the team remained optimistic about reaching their goal.
29. During the road construction alternative routes were provided to redirect traffic.
30. The medical condition is characterized by a specific set of symptoms that often occur together.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Preparedness 2. Discharge 3. Autism 4. Stem cells 5. Revolutionary 6. Transparent 7. Hemisphere 8. Constellation 9. Congested 10. Hopeful

Gap-Fill: 11. resources 12. standby 13. thrived 14. innovative 15. augmented reality 16. equinox 17. Aries 18. Babylonian 19. genes 20. avant-garde

Matching sentence: 1. abundant 2. genetic 3. social behaviour 4. looter-shooter 5. revolutionary 6. groundbreaking 7. transparent 8. hopeful 9. diversions 10. syndrome

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

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