

Some things to observe in the early evening skies: during January 2022

The Moon:

To view craters (with a small telescope or binoculars) the best time is around **first quarter Moon** which will be about the **9th January** (around 6.00pm and later) looking South.

The Planets:

Well, after a glorious display of planets during December I'm afraid that January may be a little disappointing. However in the very early evening twilight around the 10th at 5.00 (ish) there is a difficult opportunity to catch SATURN and MERCURY very low on the SW horizon (see attached image). Binoculars will certainly help. As you can see, JUPITER is still an easy spot a little higher to the South.

A few constellations to learn and recognise: (see SKYMAP)

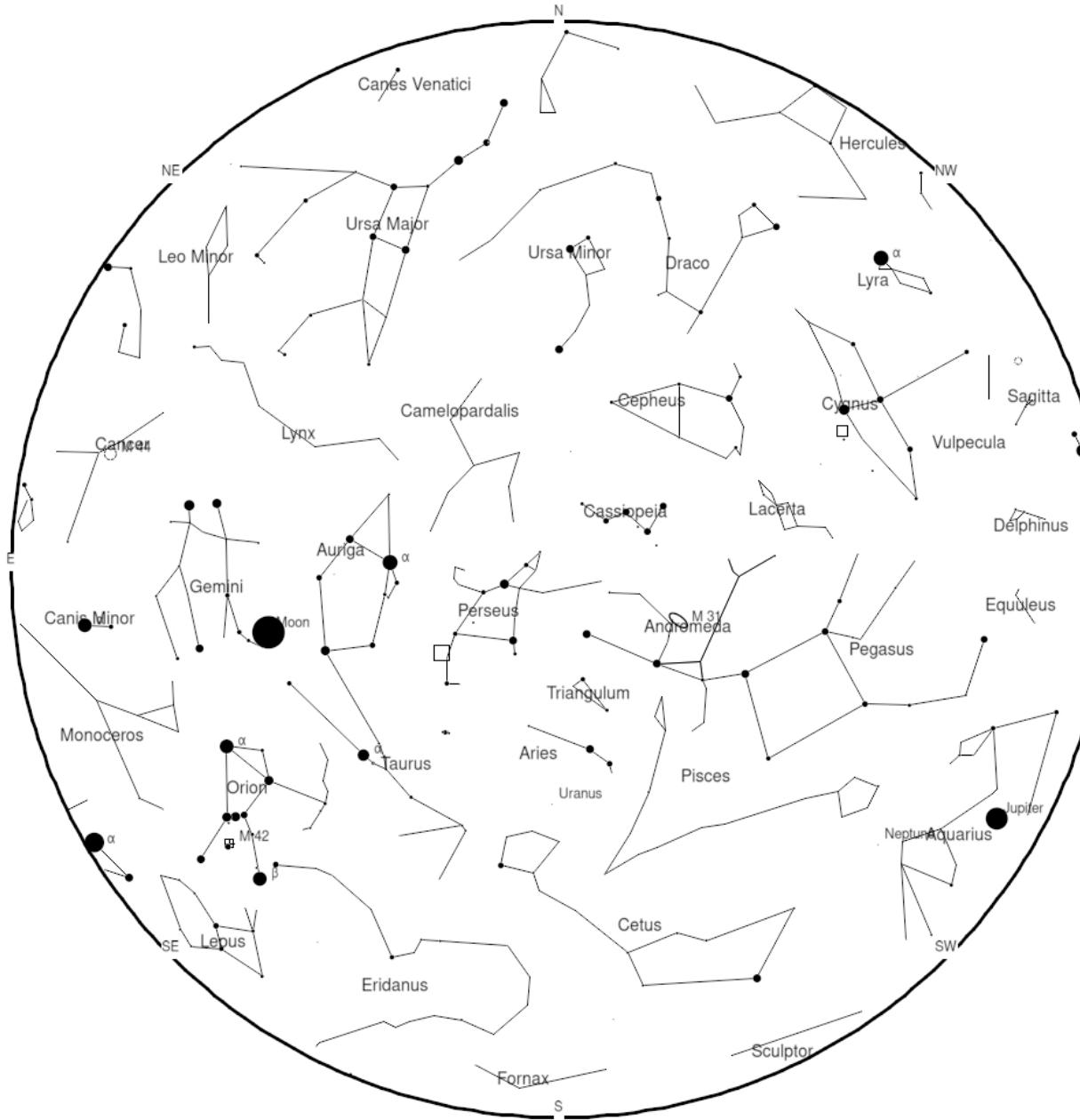
Constellations are just patterns of stars in the sky. They have LATIN (and English) names.

Among the many some constellations you might view at this time of the year:

Look out for is CASSIOPIEA (legendary Greek Queen). Look high overhead in the sky and see the 'W' shape of this constellation. It's just a lovely, easily recognisable star pattern.

Also the constellation of PERSEUS (legendary Greek hero). Just to the left (East) of Cassiopeia and not the most thrilling constellation BUT midway between the tip of Perseus and Cassiopeia there is a magnificent DOUBLE CLUSTER of stars .. just about visible with the naked eye on a dark, clear night and fairly easily seen through binoculars but really needs a small telescope to see it at its best!

Clear Skies!



Skymap for:

January 2022

The map shows the night sky at about 7.00pm on the 15th of the month, when it should be dark enough to begin observing.

Note that the map will drift westwards during the night and from one night to the next.

Hold the map with 'S' at the bottom when looking South and rotate with 'N' at the bottom when looking North etc.



https://stellarium.org/en_GB/



The constellation of CASSIOPIEA



The constellations of PERSEUS (left) and CASSIOPIEA (right)