Fun Facts:

**Albireo**

Computer Code: betacygn

* **Other Names:**
  + Beta Cygni
  + Beta Cyg
  + In Arabic, “Minqar al-Dajajah,” meaning “the hen’s beak”
  + The “beak star”
* **Location:**
  + RA: 19h 31m 04s
  + Dec: 28⁰ 00’ 00”
* **Basics:**
  + This is 3rd magnitude double star in the constellation Cygnus (the Swan)
    - It is actually the 5th brightest star in Cygnus
  + 430 light years away
    - Light we’re seeing left in 1586 AD:
      * 1580 - Sir Francis Drake completes his circumnavigation of the globe…his is the 2nd journey to do that and the first under the same commander.
      * 1582 – the Gregorian calendar is implemented
      * 1582 – Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway
      * 1580s – Chocolate is introduced commercially to Europe
      * 1587 – Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded
      * 1587 – English settlers arrive at Roanake Island in North Carolina and re-establish the deserted colony
  + They are separated by 4620 AU
  + If they are orbiting each other (we don’t know for certain), their orbital period is at least 75,000 years
* **Beta1 Cyg** or **Albireo A** (the golden amber star):
  + Orange, K3II, bright giant
  + Luminosity: 889 Suns, 1460 Suns total
  + Diameter: 66 Suns
  + Absolute magnitude: -2.55 visual, -3.16 total
  + In 1976, it was discovered that this is a binary system in itself, separated by 40 AU, and orbiting each other every 100-200 years. Our telescope can’t distinguish between them.
    - The brighter star is a helium-fusing giant, class K3 (orange)
      * Temperature: 7440⁰ F
      * Luminosity: 950 Suns
      * Diameter: 50 Suns
      * Mass: 5 Suns
    - The other is a hydrogen-fusing main sequence, class B9 (blue)
      * Temperature: 19,340⁰ F
      * Luminosity: 100 Suns
      * Mass: 3.2 Suns
* **Beta2Cyg** or **Albireo B** (the blue-white star):
  + B8Ve, main sequence
  + 20,100⁰ F
  + Luminosity: 117 Suns visual, 229 Suns total
  + Diameter: 3.88 Suns
  + Absolute magnitude: -0.35 visual, -1.15 total
  + Very fast spinning star (150 miles per second), rotation period of about 14 hours
    - This causes a gas disk around it
  + From Albireo B, Albireo A would appear as brilliant orange and blue points about ½ degree apart. The orange star would shine with light equal to about 35 full moons, and the blue/white companion about ½ half that.