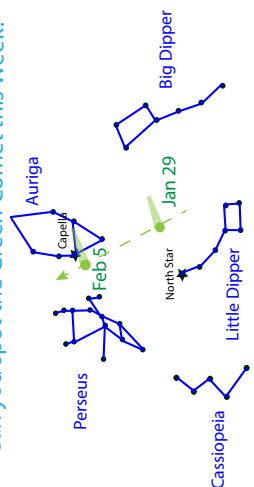
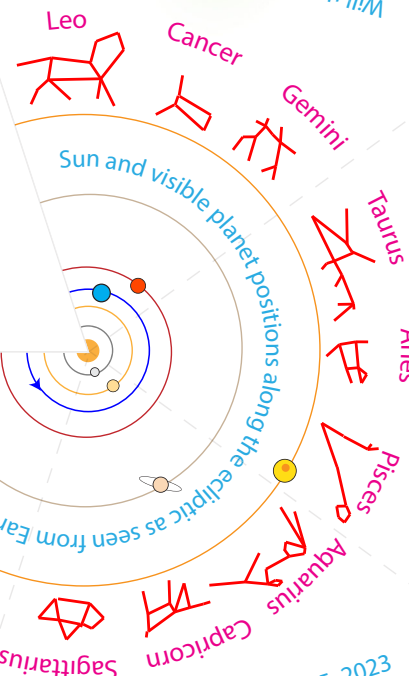


- 1 Print double-sided
- 2 Cut out pentagon with missing wedge
- 3 (Punch out stars with pushpin)
- 4 Fold on crease opposite missing wedge
- 5 Lay flat to tape edge
- 6 Fold on other two creases
- 6 Open to make pyramid

Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) is visiting the inner solar system for the first time in 50,000 years. As it approaches the Sun it heats up and frozen gases and water vapor are released, creating a hazy head of the comet that might be visible in dark skies without a telescope. The gases and water vapor are also pushed away by the solar wind, creating a tail that always points away from the Sun. So even as the comet speeds around the Sun, the tail points away from the Sun. Look for it between the North Star and Capella as it heads back out of the Solar System.

Will the Green Comet be visible?

Can you spot the Green Comet this Week?



Facing North after Sunset

Will the Green Comet ever return?

Originating in the Oort Cloud around the Solar System, the Green Comet has passed by the Sun but is still above the Ecliptic Plane of the planets. It will pass through the plane between Earth and Mars later in February. Its orbit slightly unbalanced by the gravitational tug of the largest planet Jupiter, it is likely to head out of the Solar System into deep space, never to return. Closest to Earth on February 1st and 2nd, it is barely visible above the Ecliptic between the North Star and Capella.

Night Sky January 29 - February 5, 2023

All week: Venus, Jupiter, and Mars visible after sunset, then set in sequence. Saturn too close to Sun for visibility. Mercury visible before sunrise. January 29: Quarter Moon. January 30: Moon passes Mars, occulting it from some positions on Earth. February 2: Green Comet passes closest to Earth. February 5: Full Moon.

