

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & *planetarium*

Movements and Rhythms of the Heavens

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May 14, 2020

The following instructions represent additional resources for continued study of the topics covered in our "Movement and Rhythms of the Heavens" online class. All materials are the property of Planetarium Director and Senior Meteorologist Mark Breen who created them.

Planet Observing Project

Observing planets takes weeks or months to see significant changes. Through this year, there are some noteworthy displays of planets to look forward to.

Starting in July, look for two planets to rise in the evening, low in the southeast. Can you identify them? You can use Stellarium to create a virtual summer sky, and investigate which planets are moving into view.

Once you identify them, observe how they change each week. Are they moving relative to your view? Are they moving relative to the stars they are near? How will they change through the end of the year?

In late summer and fall, the planet Mars becomes visible. What characteristics stand out when you observe it? Do your observations have any connection to scientists exploring Mars? If so, what can you tell about Mars that affects our explorations?