2009 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER STARMAP



The Wives Who Ate Onions

Once there were six wives. Every day their husbands would go off hunting, and they would leave the wives to gather vegetables and cook the meals.

One day, as they were out gathering vegetables the youngest wife found an onion growing. She took a bite and it was sweet and flavorful. She called her sisters to her, and they each took a bite. "Our husbands will love these!" they thought. They gathered as many as they could, and while they were gathering them they ate many more, and rubbed the onion juice on as perfume.

When their husbands returned the wives had horrible onion breath, and their husbands made them sleep outside. When the husbands left to go hunting the next day, they forbid their wives from eating any more onions.

Of course, the wives liked the onions so much that they went back that day and ate many onions. Once again, the husbands made them sleep outside. The wives decided this wasn't fair, so they climbed the tallest hill and jumped up into the stars. There they became a cluster of stars known as the Pleiades, danced in a circle and ate as many onions as they wanted.

The husbands were sorry to see them go, especially when they realized they had to make their own meals. They pleaded with their wives, asking them to come home, but the wives were happy living among the stars. Finally the husbands climbed up into the stars too and became another cluster of stars: the Hyades.

This story is attributed to the Western Mono Native Americans from California and has been retold by us.

The Pleiades

The Pleiades are a group of generally very young stars contained within a blue reflection nebula.

This is one of the most observable objects in the night sky, because it doesn't matter what type of observing equipment you have: your eyes, binoculars, or a telescope no matter what size.

If you're watching with your eyes, count how many stars you can see. With a telescope, examine the nebula in more detail.

Picture (C) Antonio Fernandez-Sanchez



Astronomy Internet Resources

Sky Information: stardate.org/nightsky/weekly.php UW Observatory: www.astro.washington.edu/groups/outreach/tjo/ Seattle-Area Astronomy Events: www.seattleastro.org Advanced Astronomy Updates: PacificScienceCenter.org/AstroInfo

Dot-to-Dot

People all over the world see different patterns in this cluster of stars. What dot-to-dot picture can you make out of these stars?





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