



The Northern Lights are caused by the Sun, which creates "space weather" near Earth. What is space weather? Why should we care? Find out at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/spaceweather](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/spaceweather).



# DECEMBER 2012

[spaceplace.nasa.gov](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Read a New Book Month.</b> If you haven't read it yet, "Lucy's Planet Hunt" is a real page turner.</p>						1
2	3	4 <b>Pioneer 10 flew past Jupiter, 1973.</b> Play "JunoQuest," about a new spacecraft on its way to Jupiter.	5	6  LAST QUARTER	7 <b>Galileo spacecraft</b> became first to orbit an outer planet (Jupiter), in 1995. Learn more about Dr. Marc's favorite planet.	8
9	10	11 First recorded sighting of the <b>Aurora Borealis</b> from New England, 1719. Is it possible to predict them?	12 <b>Radio signals</b> first transmitted across the Atlantic, 1901. But how do these signals carry messages?	13  NEW MOON	14 <b>Geminids meteor shower</b> at maximum. Meteor showers occur when Earth passes through the path of icy, rocky debris in space left by a comet.	15
16	17 <b>First powered flight by the Wright Brothers in 1903.</b> Whose shoulders did the brothers stand on to invent their airplane?	18	19 <b>Apollo 17</b> , the last of the Apollo Moon landing missions, returned to Earth, 1972. Did they find water ice on the Moon?	20  FIRST QUARTER	21	22
23	24	25 <b>Christmas Day.</b> Did Santa ever bring you a Slinky®? If so, you'll understand how NASA plans to make a mast to go solar sailing in space.	26 <i>Time</i> magazine named <b>Albert Einstein "Person of the Century,"</b> 1999. Einstein's theories predict gravitational waves. What are these?	27 <b>No Interruptions Day.</b> A time to reflect and prepare for a new year. Read and listen to Dr. Marc's reflections on the Solar System.	28  FULL MOON	29
30	31					

Month of December: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/story-lucy](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/story-lucy)

Dec. 4: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/junoquest](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/junoquest)

Dec. 7: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system)

Dec. 11: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/satellite-insight](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/satellite-insight)

Dec. 12: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/classroom-activities/#phases](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/classroom-activities/#phases)

Dec. 14: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/meteor-shower](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/meteor-shower)

Dec. 17: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/classroom-activities/#history](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/classroom-activities/#history)

Dec. 19: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/i-see-ice](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/i-see-ice)

Dec. 25: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/sailmast](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sailmast)

Dec. 26: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/ligo-g-waves](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ligo-g-waves)

Dec. 27: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/dr-marc](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/dr-marc)