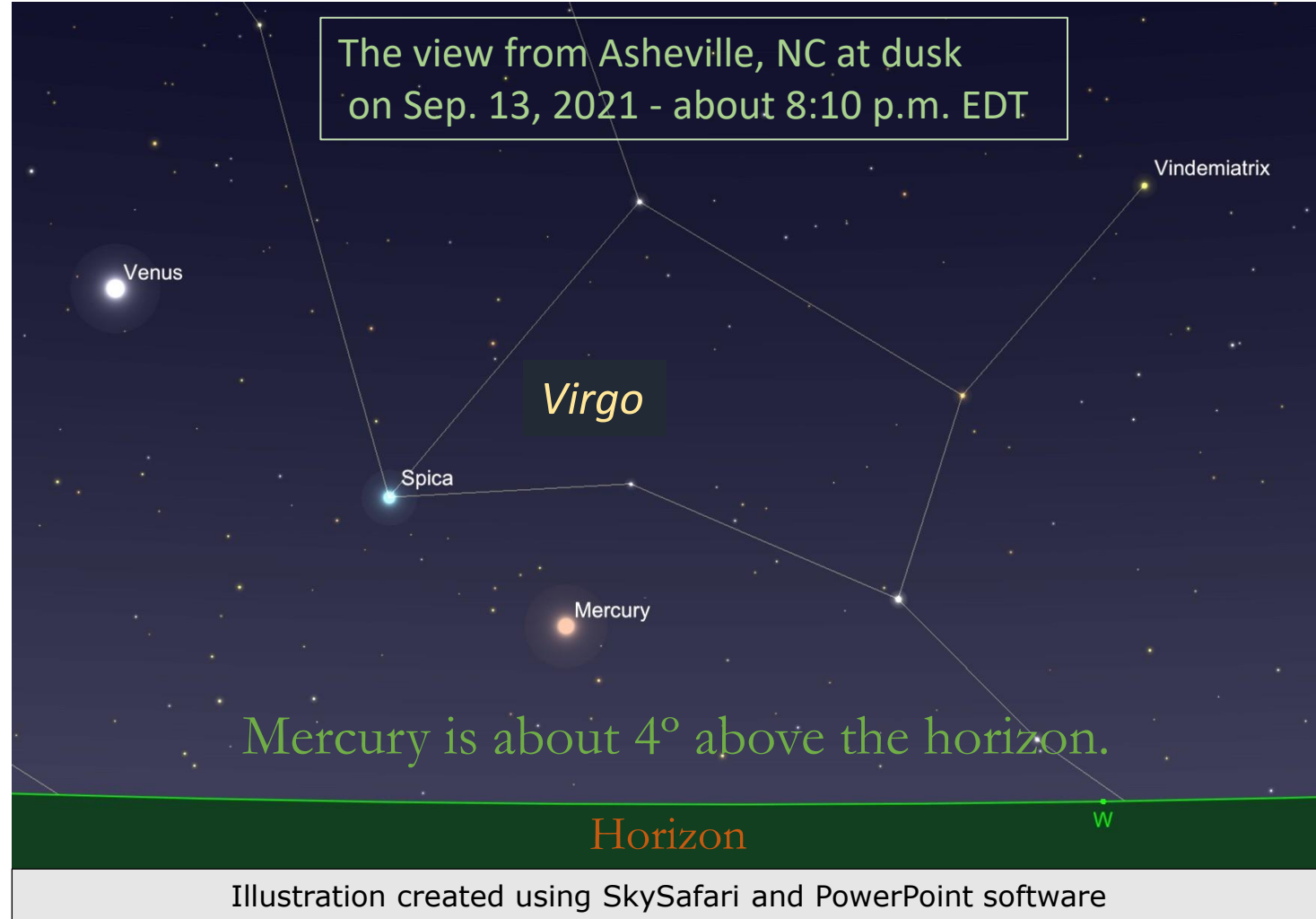


Mercury Reaches Greatest Elongation East (GEE) of the Sun

The innermost planet Mercury reaches its greatest elongation east (GEE) of the Sun on the nights of **September 13 & 14** in the constellation Virgo. Although the ecliptic (the path the Sun, Moon and planets follow across the sky) is at a shallow angle with the horizon after sunset in September, this is still an opportune time to locate Mercury at dusk.

Find an unobstructed view low to the western horizon, and use binoculars to help you spot the planet.



On these nights, Mercury is located some 90 million miles away, while brilliant Venus is 94 million miles away.