

Three Planets Gather at Dawn

The three planets closest to Earth will gather at dawn forming a triangular pattern for 11 days from **February 4-14**. **Venus, Mars, and Mercury** will align in front of the stars of the zodiac constellation Sagittarius.

At least 30 minutes before sunrise, find a location with an unobstructed view low to the southeast horizon. Venus (the brightest planet as seen from Earth) will be easy to spot. Look for much fainter, orange-tinted Mars below and to the right of Venus. Use binoculars to help locate Mercury which will be much closer to the horizon.

Ponder that Venus, Mars, and Mercury are on these dates, respectively, about 34 million, 200 million, and 72 million miles away.

Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

