

STGZ238

11/14 - 11/20

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO SEE THE PLEIADES

HELLO STAR SPYERS – TRACE HERE! THE STARS AREN'T ALL THE SAME. SOME ARE COLORFUL, SOME ARE BIG, SOME ARE OLD – AND IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK, YOU CAN SEE STARS BEING BORN.

HIT THE DARKNESS AT AROUND 9PM AND LOOK EAST. YOU SHOULD SEE A BRIGHT RED DOT, THAT'S MARS, THE PLEIADES WILL BE UP AND TO THE RIGHT OF IT. THE PLEIADES ARE AN OPEN CLUSTER OF MANY HUNDREDS OF STARS SITUATED ABOUT 440 LIGHT YEARS AWAY. THOUGH WITH THE NAKED EYE IT MAY LOOK LIKE A SMALL, FAINT CLOUD. IF LET YOUR EYES ADJUST, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PICK OUT 5, 6, OR 7 INDIVIDUAL STARS. THROUGH BINOCULARS OR WITH A LONG CAMERA LENS YOU CAN SEE SO MANY!

GALILEO POINTED HIS TELESCOPE AT THEM 400 YEARS AGO, DISCOVERING THEY WERE DOZENS OF SUNS! TODAY, ASTRONOMERS USE OPEN CLUSTERS TO LEARN HOW STARS AGE AND GROW.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE PLEIADES AND NEXT WEEK WE'LL START HERE AND HOP TO MORE STARS – KEEP LOOKIN' UP!