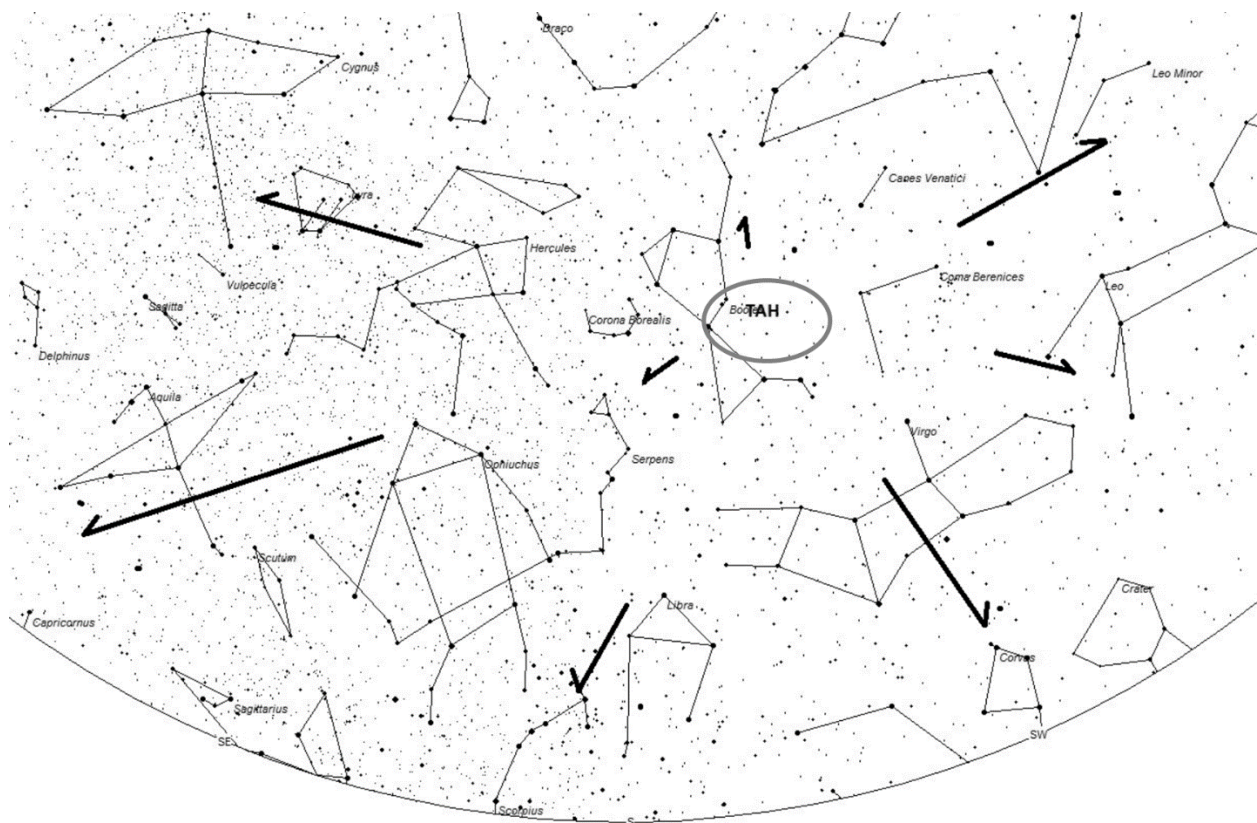


Tau Herculis Meteor Shower

5/30-31/2022

Where do meteors come from?

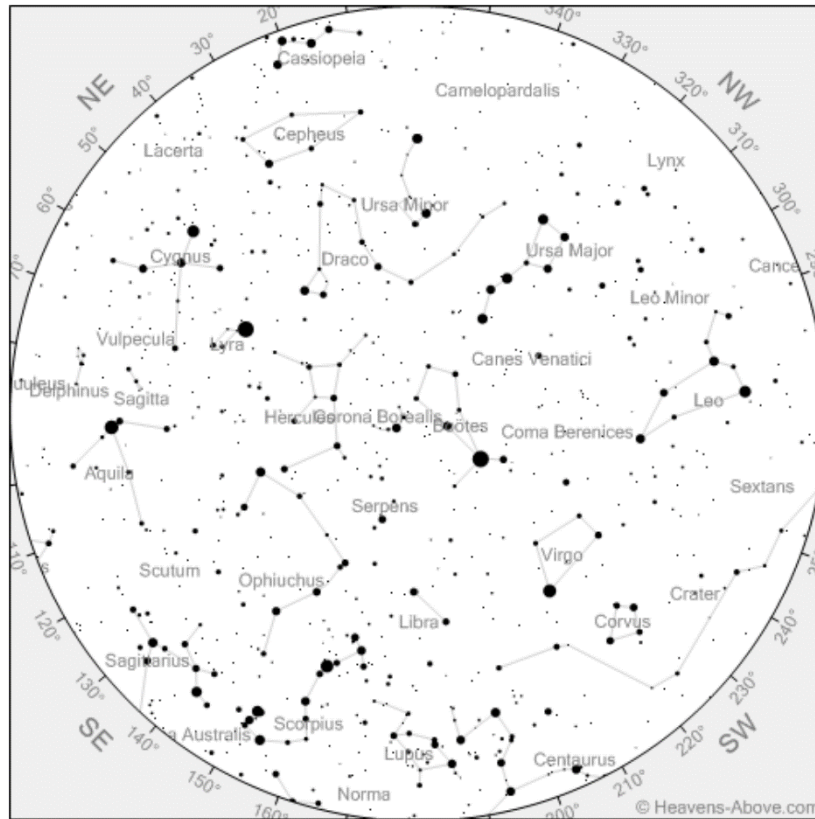
- Meteors are small bits of debris that escape from a comet as it approaches the Sun.
- When the Earth passes through the dust trail left by a comet, the dust may fall into Earth's atmosphere and be seen as a meteor.
- These meteors seem to originate from the same place in the sky – the radiant (oval).
- There are always bits of dust hitting the atmosphere all the time. These are called sporadic meteors when they are seen.



Meteor Trivia:

- Most meteors we see are actually the size of a grain of sand.
- Marble sized meteors often are able to survive to the ground.
- New meteorites may feel warm, but they are not hot.
- Only one person has been hit by a meteorite, and it was after it crashed through her roof, bounced off the floor, and hit her elbow.
- A Major Meteor Shower may have as few as 10 meteors per hour.
- Some shower peaks are only a few minutes wide.
- Meteor showers may be around for a month with the peak somewhere inside.

The sky at 12:00 (midnight) on the morning of 5/31/2022:



Time

Year	2022	Month	5	Day	31	Hour	0	Minute	0
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Some useful definitions:

- Meteor – a rocky or icy body that causes the air to glow as it enters Earth’s atmosphere.
- Meteorite – the remnants of a meteor sitting on the ground.
- Meteoroid – a small rocky or icy body in space. (Think small asteroids.)
- Radiant – the place in the sky where meteors in a meteor shower seem to originate.
- Meteor Shower – two or more meteors that seem to come from the same radiant.
- Meteor Storm – a meteor shower with thousands of meteors per hour.

Most meteors appear to be white because they are too faint for our eyes to see their color. Bright meteors may appear to be red, yellow, or green. Find the darkest spot you can, with no ground lighting visible. Do not use flashlights or cell phones. Give at least 30 minutes for your eyes to adjust to the dark. Be prepared for the weather and the insects. Be sure to have something to drink. Nestle down in a comfy chair and let your eyes wander over a section of the sky.

Insperty Observatory – www.humbleisd.net/observatory