



Also known as the Seven Sisters and M45

# How many Pleiads can you see?

Perhaps the most attractive binocular sight in the heavens!



The **Pleiades star cluster** is an early evening celestial attraction from late October when it climbs in the east through late March when it sinks in the west.

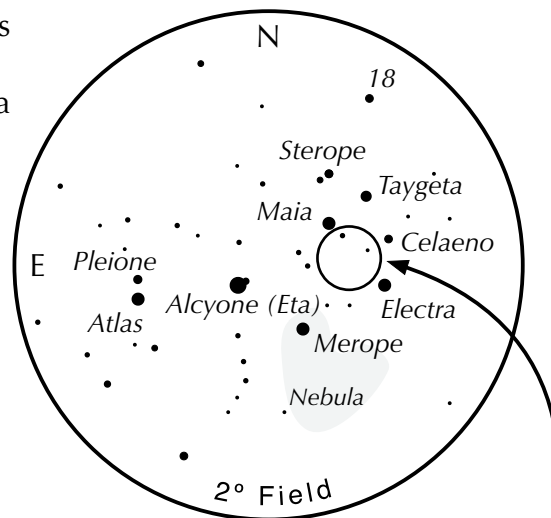
Six stars are commonly seen by folks with good vision, but some can see seven. Expert observers under very clear skies have spotted up to 11!

- To those unfamiliar with the night sky, the Pleiades is sometimes confused with the Little Dipper.
- Merope Nebula is very difficult to spot visually in a telescope, but long exposure images can capture it.

## Six stars seen visually:

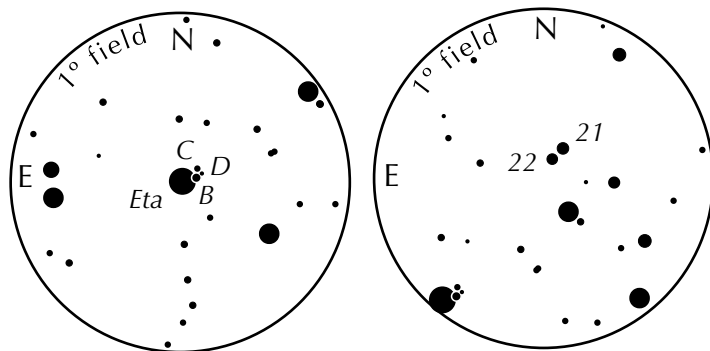
| Pleiad    | Magnitude       |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Atlas     | 3.6             |
| Alcyone   | 2.8             |
| Merope    | 4.1             |
| Electra   | 3.7             |
| Maia      | 3.8             |
| Taygeta   | 4.3             |
| & Pleione | 5.0 7th Pleiad? |

Even though Pleione is magnitude 5.0, it is hard to spot because it is only 5 minutes north of 3.6 magnitude Atlas.



## Galileo's Rendition of the Pleiades

Galileo's Telescope:  
14 power, 51 mm aperture, 15 minute field



|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alcyone (Eta): 2.8 mag. | Sterope (21 & 22 Tauri) |
| B: 6.25 mag.            | 21 Tauri: 5.75 mag.     |
| C: 8.18 mag.            | 22 Tauri: 6.40 mag.     |
| D: 8.65 mag.            | Sep: 2.5 minutes        |
| AB: 2 min sep; PA 280°  | PA: 135°                |
| AC: 3 min sep; PA 300°  |                         |
| AD: 3 min sep; PA 285   |                         |



"I have depicted the six stars of Taurus known as the Pleiades (I say six, inasmuch as the seventh is hardly ever visible) which lie within very narrow limits in the sky. Near them are more than forty others, invisible, no one of which is much more than half a degree away from the original six."

*Starry Messenger*, Galileo Galilei, 1610