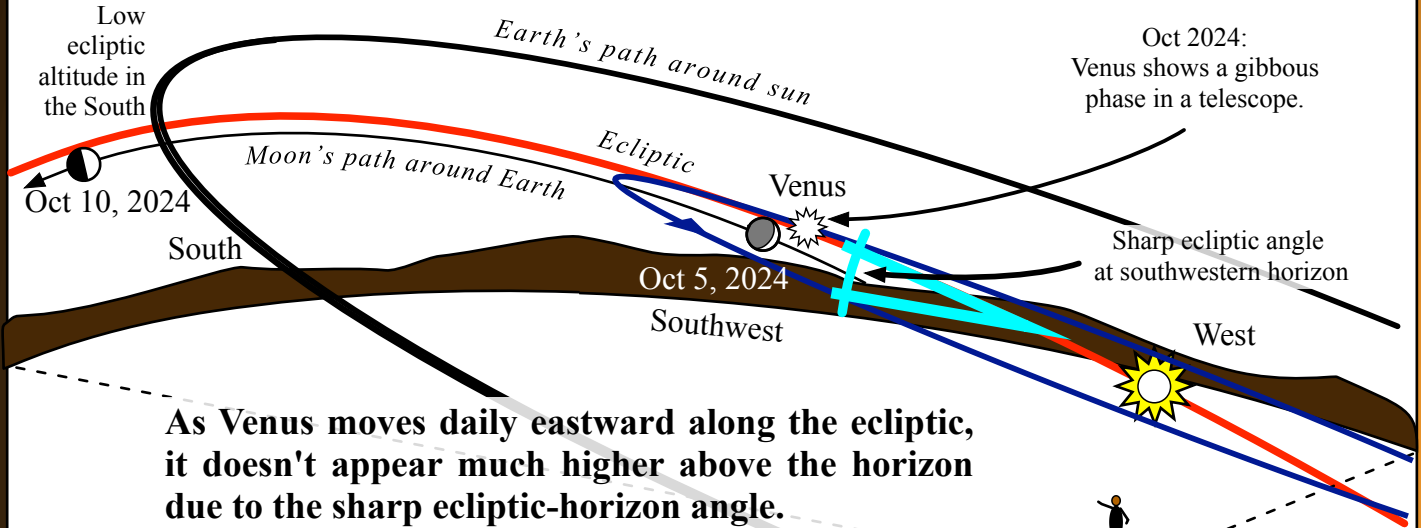




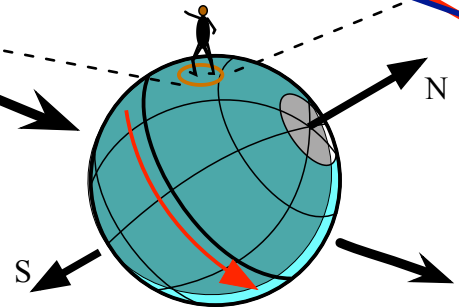
Why does Venus appear so low in the bright twilight shortly after sunset?

From early September through mid October, the slant of the ecliptic makes a sharp angle with the western horizon.



Also, at this time of year ...

- The waxing crescent moon always floats low in the southwest.
- The first quarter moon always hangs low in the south.
- If Mercury were situated along the western horizon, it, too, would always appear low in the southwest.



When Venus appears shortly after sunset during or near the Autumnal Equinox, it shines low in the southwest. It does this every eight years. As it did in 2008 and 2016, it will again lie in nearly the same location in the southwestern sky in 2032 and 2040.

Evening Apparition

Low in the southwest after sunset in autumn

High in the northwest after sunset in spring

