

Winter Solstice 2020

Monday, December 21.

Celebration of the Return of Light

4:02 am CST. At this moment is when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away the furthest it can be from the Sun

Astronomical Start of Winter.

Solstice = Sun + Still

December 20 and 21- Same sunset time of 4:22pm CST

By December 28, the sun will be setting at 4:27pm CST.

On the Summer Solstice- June 20- we will have over 6 MORE hours of daylight.

**From out of darkness and cold, the light and hope return.
Something inside us needs to know that at the end of the longest night,
there will be light.**

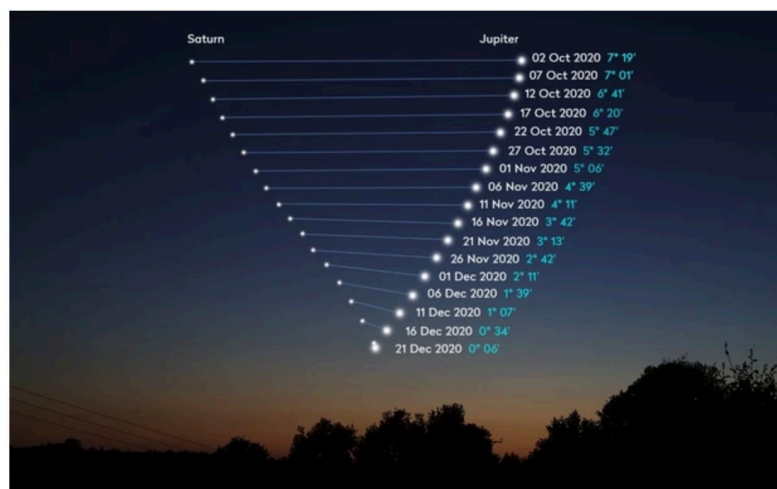
**Many traditions with cultures going back many years
celebrating the return of light.**

Stone structures built, sacred rituals, bonfires, festivals and more.

A time to reflect, renew and look ahead.

Two Planets will come together- a Conjunction

The two largest planets in our Solar System, Jupiter and Saturn, will come very close to each other. This has not been visible since the Middle Ages! Over 800 years ago! Look to the horizon to the Southwest about 45 minutes after sunset. The two planets are visible every evening...track them and watch them get closer and closer!



Saturn and Jupiter appear to close in on each other as the Great Conjunction 2020 approaches on 21 December (apparent distance given in degrees and arcminutes). Credit: Pete Lawrence



Hiking and Exploring in Winter



What animals are active in Wisconsin during the Winter?

What do they eat? Where do they sleep?

Look for evidence of these active Winter Animals.

Tracks, scat (animal poop), animal homes.

Look for fox, rabbits, squirrels.

Birds- Cardinals, Chickadees, Woodpeckers, Raptors

What animals are we NOT seeing anymore? Where have they gone? And why?

Monarch butterflies, snakes, frogs, robins.

Food source is the main reason animals do what they do for winter...

Stay active (they can find food), migrate (move) to find food or hibernate (sleep)

Snow

Snow Activities

Play! Hike, Sled, Ski, Snowshoe.

Put snow in container, bring inside. What is left after it melts? What is snow made of?

Measure snow with rulers throughout Winter. Observe and note depth.

Create your own interesting footprints in the snow.

Catch snowflakes on black mittens, jacket. Take a close look.

No two snowflakes are the same. Each does have 6 sides.

Snowflake shape is determined by the moisture in air and the temperature.

Plates, crystals, dendrites, columns are some of the snowflake shapes.

<http://www.snowcrystals.com/guide/guide.html>

