



## Astronomy Club Challenge - 9/12/10

### Want help finding the stars and planets?

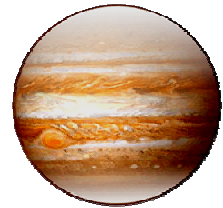
Stellarium is a free planetarium for your computer. It shows a realistic sky in 3D, just like what you see with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope. It is being used in planetarium projectors. Just set your coordinates and go!

<http://www.stellarium.org/>



### The moons of Jupiter

Jupiter is the really bright star that is shining in the early evening sky. With a small telescope or a good pair of binoculars it should be possible to see (a) the bands of cloud around the planet; and (b) up to four pin pricks of light in a line level with the centre of the planet: these are its four largest moons Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.



### Orion the Hunter

Orion is one of the most distinctive constellations in the winter night sky. Look south from about 8.45pm and see if you can spot his belt. The top left star is the red Betelgeuse; the bottom right is Rigel.



### Meteor Shower!

The annual Geminids Meteor Shower is active from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of December: it is at its peak on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup>. The best way to observe the shower is to lie on a sunbed and look up at a large area of sky - make sure you get permission first! Being December it's important to wrap up warm. Looking in the direction of Orion is your best bet for the first part of the evening.

