

## THE GRAPHIC TIMETABLE OF THE HEAVENS

Every year the publishers of *Sky and Telescope Magazine* produce the *Sky Gazer's Almanac*. The center page of the *Sky Gazer's Almanac* is a graphic timetable giving the (predictable) nighttime astronomical events throughout the year. Using the small timetable on your table, the instruction on the cover, the legend at the bottom, and the information on the sides, answer the following.

- <sup>3</sup> Why is the chart shaped the way it is? Why are the North American, European and Southern Hemisphere charts shaped differently?
- <sup>4</sup> Why are all the white lines parallel and why do they slant upward to the right?
- <sup>2</sup> Why do the lines for Mercury and Venus not cross the chart, but only appear along the sides?
- <sup>3</sup> On what days do the latest sunrise and earliest sunset occur? Why don't they occur on the same day?
- <sup>2</sup> When in February was or will the moon be at perigee? Apogee?
- <sup>3</sup> At what time and date was Earth at perihelion? How far from the Sun was it?
- <sup>3</sup> At what time and date will Earth be at aphelion? How far from the Sun will it be?
- <sup>2</sup> When will official (Gregorian) Spring arrive this year?

**THE EVENTS OF A SINGLE NIGHT**

For next Sunday night (February 18 - February 19), use the *Sky Gazer's Almanac* to determine the events that will occur and their Local Mean Time (LMT) time to within 1 or 2 minutes.<sup>20</sup>

EVENTS FOR SUNDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 19, 2024		
	Local Time (EST)	Event
1	5:39 PM	Sunset
2		
3		
4	7:10 PM	End of Evening Twilight
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	12:00 AM	Clock Midnight EST
11		
12		
13		
14		
15	4:07 am	Waxing Gibbous Moon Sets
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21	6:48 AM	Sunrise

