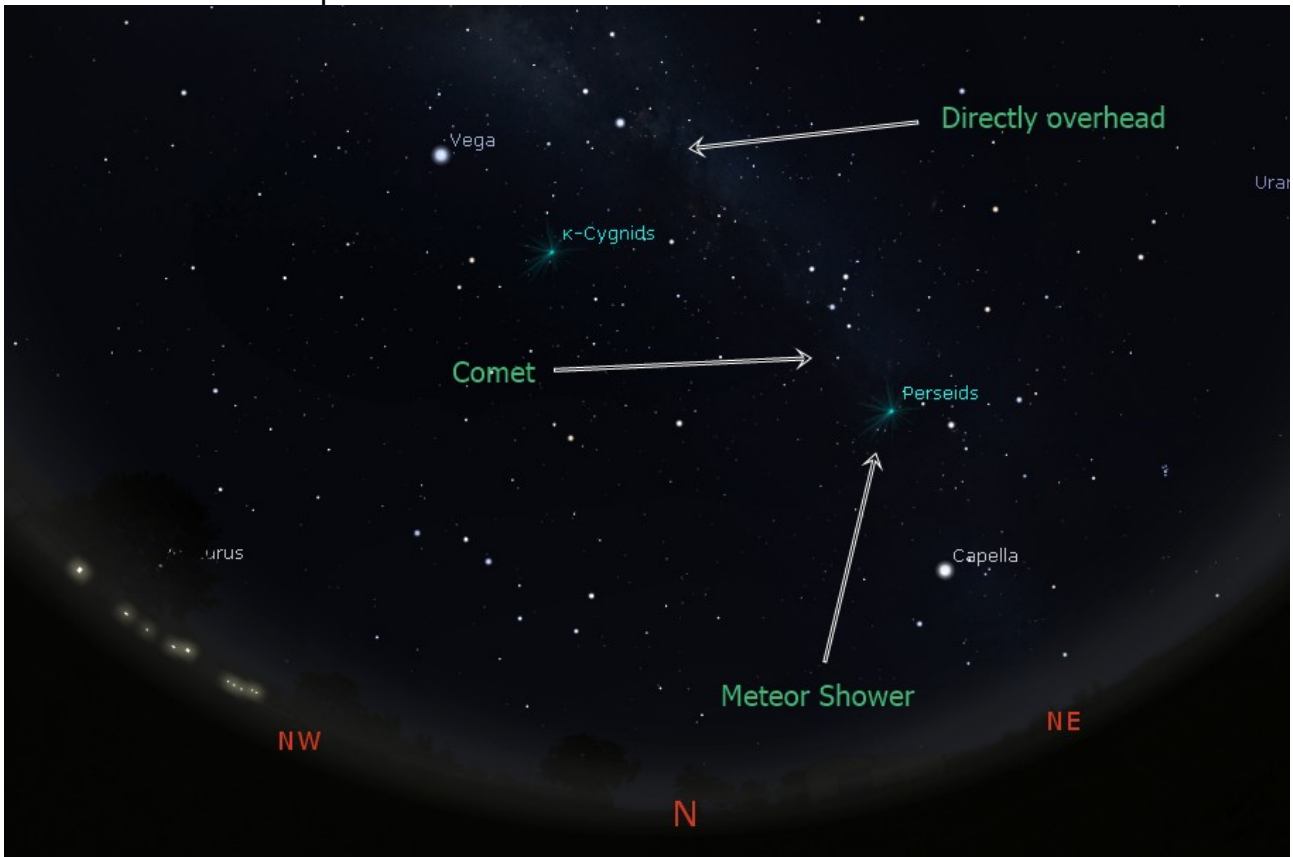


PERSEID METEOR SHOWER 2018

The comet Swift-Tuttle has left an 15 billion mile dust trail round the Sun and the Earth passes through it at about this time each year. Meteors have already begun to appear as this debris burns up in the atmosphere. As the Earth travels deeper into this dust trail more meteors will be seen, maybe one a minute on Sunday night. If you have never seen a shooting star this is your best chance.

The sky map below is for Sunday 12th at 11pm. If you face NE the meteors will come from a point between the bright star Capella and the constellation Cassiopeia – which looks like a big W on its side.

Good luck and let's hope for clear skies.



There is another comet just visible on August 12th, but it's quite faint and it would have to be really dark and you would need a pair of binoculars to see it. Its position on Sunday night is marked on the map - follow the lower (left-hand) line of the W in Cassiopeia down and you should see a faint fuzzy blob. This one is Comet Giacobini-Zinner and it also has a dust trail but the Earth will miss most of it and the meteor shower in October (known as the Draconids) will not be worth staying up for.



Image credit N.A.Sharp/NOAO/AURA/NSF