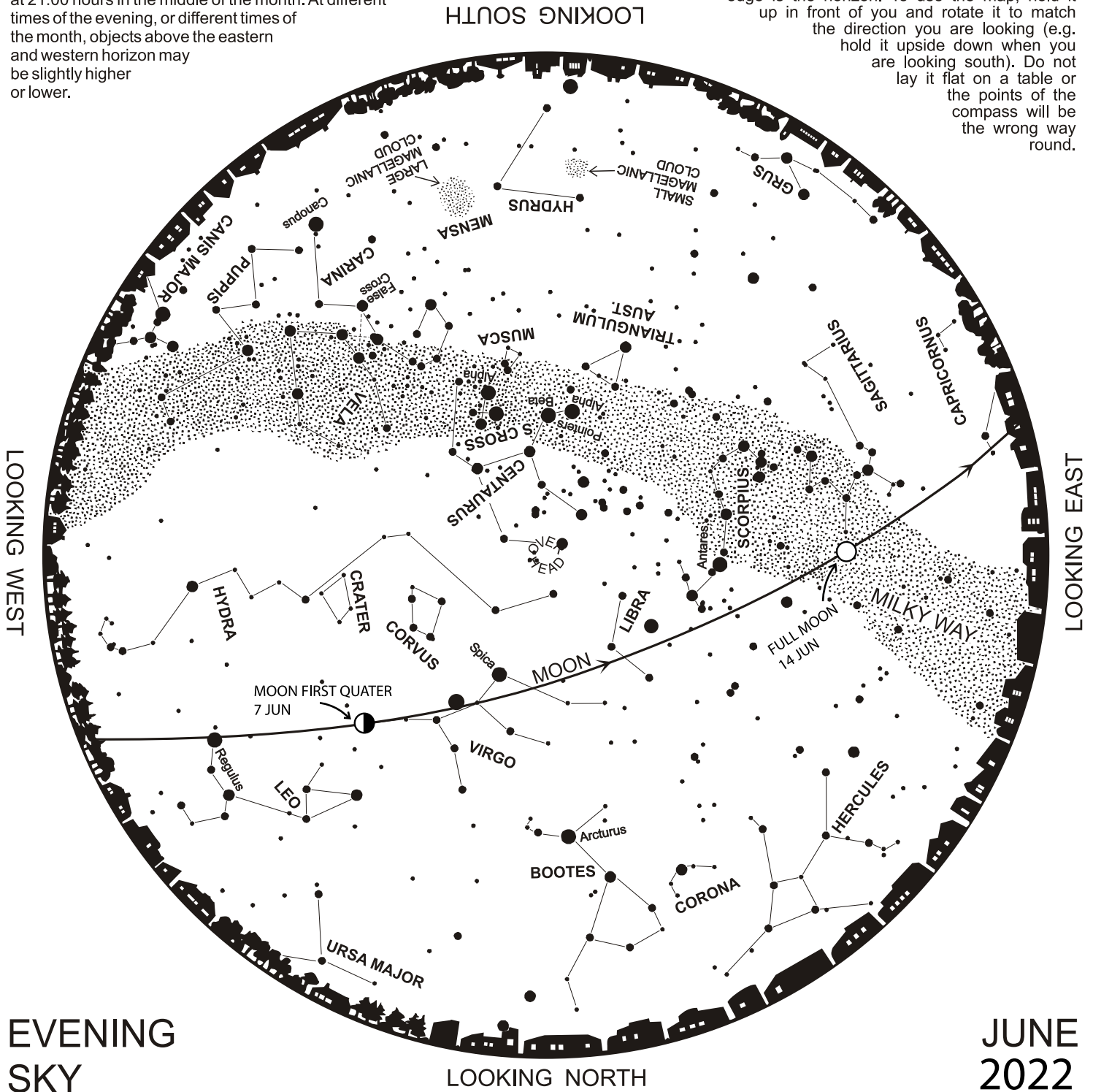


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



As we move towards Winter Solstice in South Africa (21 June), the prominent constellation Scorpius (scorpion) with its curved asterism (pattern) of stars rises early in the east. Between Scorpius and nearby Sagittarius (Archer) look out for dark dust lanes in a broader region of the Milky Way (requires dark conditions). This area encompasses 'Sagittarius A*', the hidden supermassive black hole at the centre of our Galaxy which recently made major news after its image was released by astronomers. Moving southwards, the Southern Cross (made up of Crux and the Pointer Stars: Alpha and Beta Centauri) are prominent overhead. Closer to the southern horizon, you may be able to make out the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds (LMC, SMC) - two neighbouring irregular dwarf galaxies

visible to the naked eye. Impressively, all eight major Solar System planets are potentially visible at dawn, optimally between 11 – 19 June (using the naked eye, or a telescope for fainter planets Uranus and Neptune). In South Africa, we call the Full Moon (14 June) the 'Sister's Moon' because this month the beautiful open star cluster the Pleiades (isiLimela or 'Seven Sisters') reappears in our night skies, rising just before sunrise after several months' absence (visit <https://cfah.org.za/fullmoon/> to find out more). In African starlore, the reappearance of these 'digging stars' in Southern Africa heralded the start of the growing season.