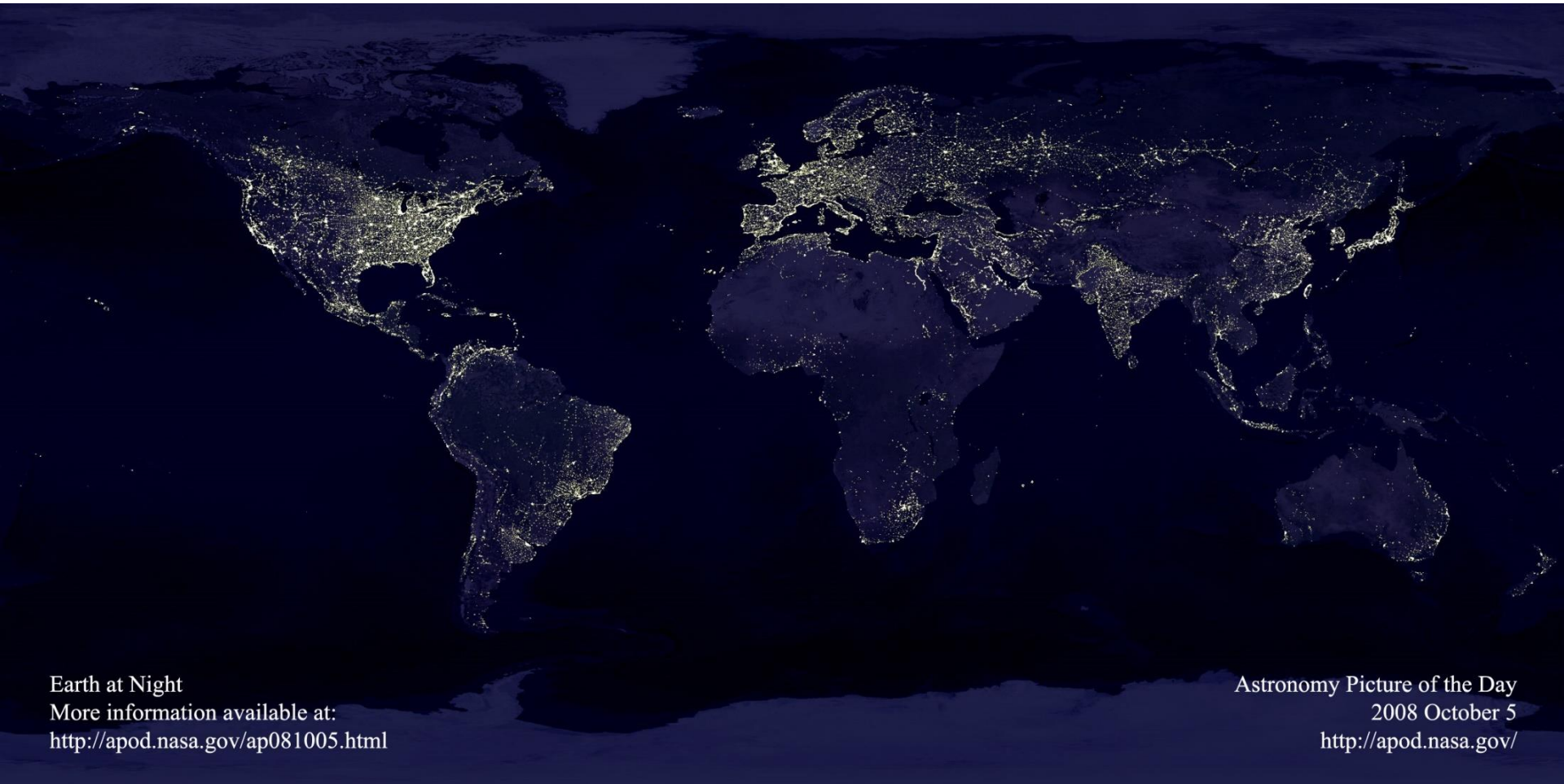


What is a Dark Sky?

RLEP

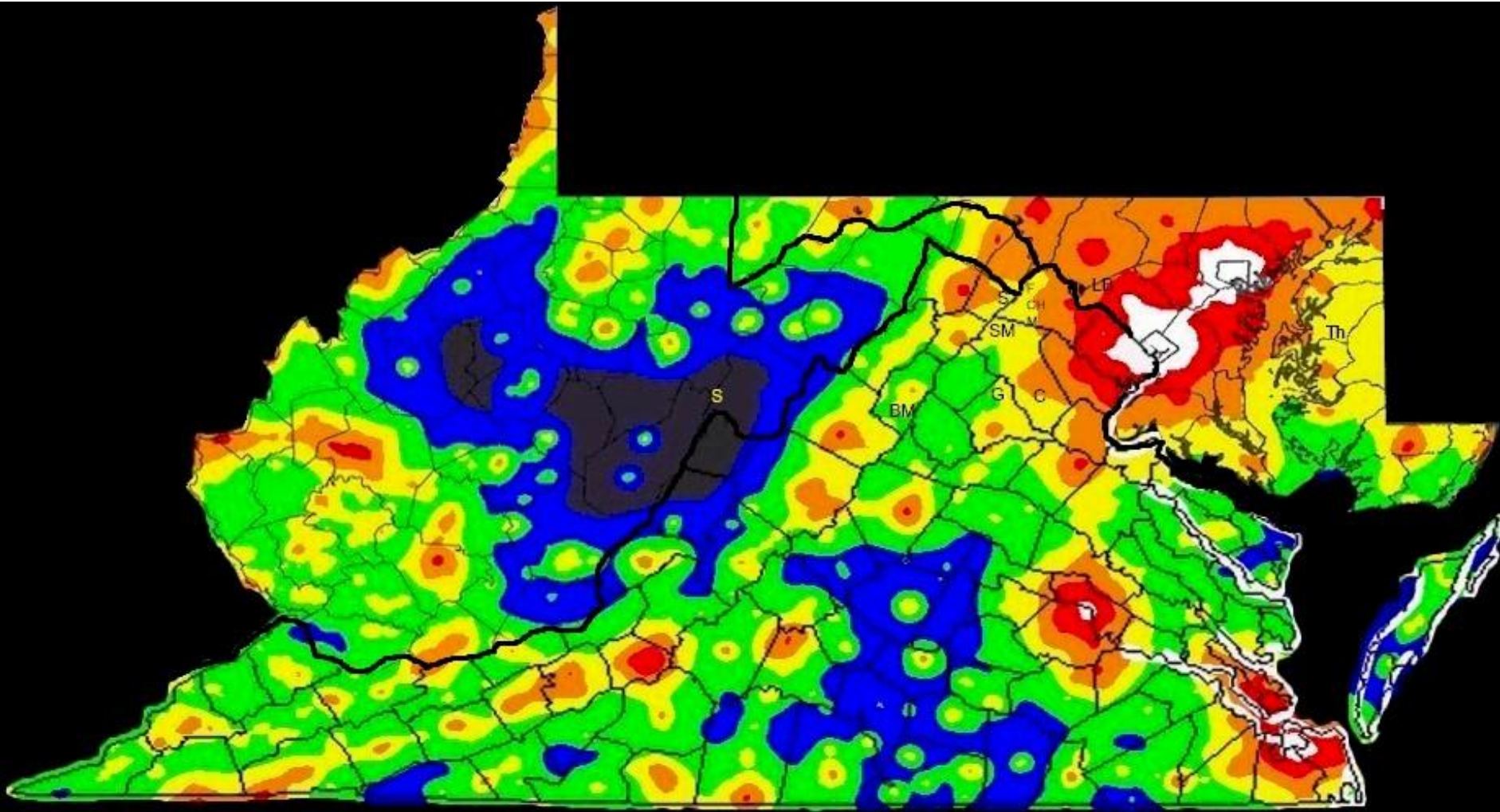
2017



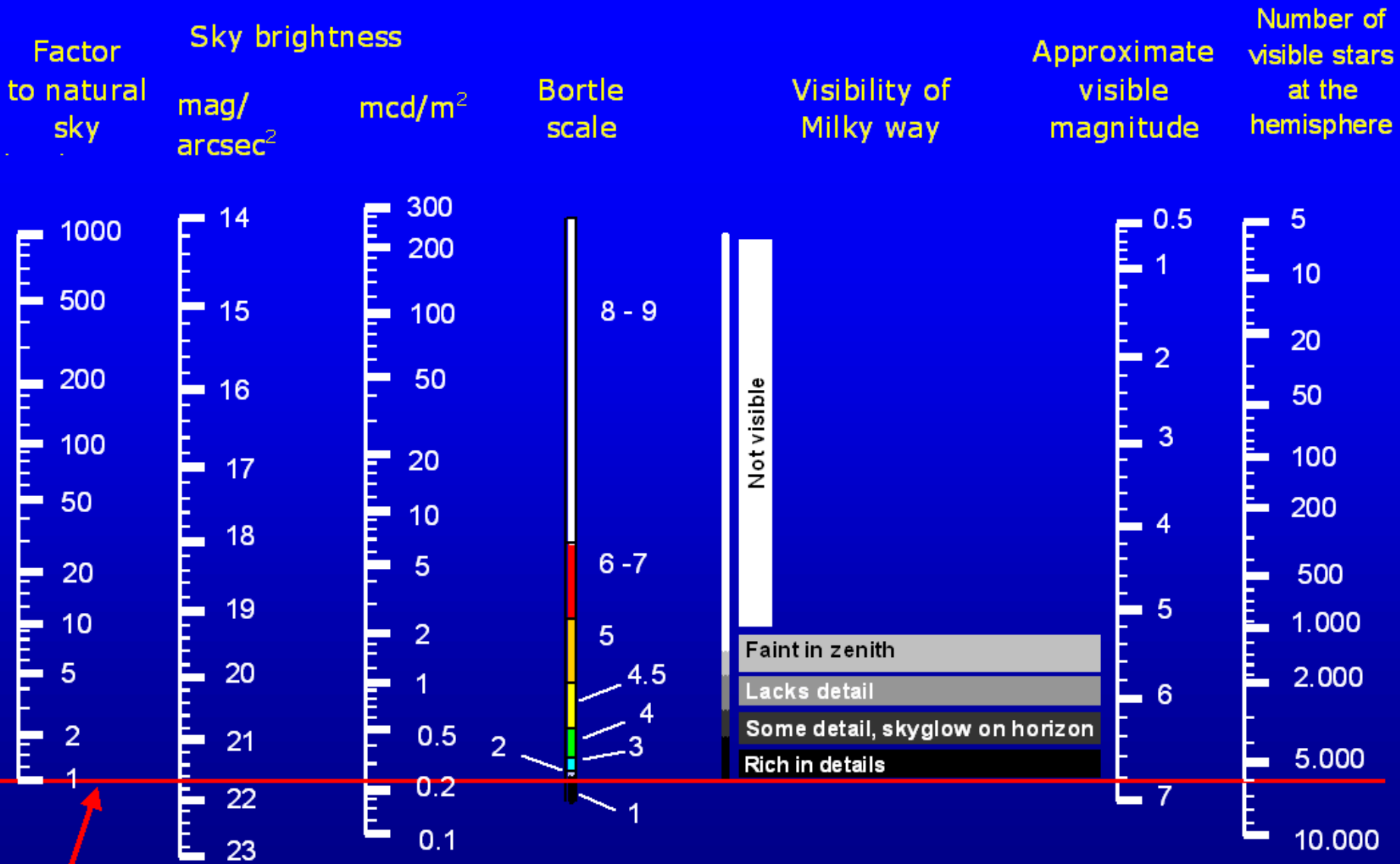
Earth at Night
More information available at:
<http://apod.nasa.gov/ap081005.html>

Astronomy Picture of the Day
2008 October 5
<http://apod.nasa.gov/>

Bortle Scale Number	Color on Map	Limiting Magnitude	Sky Type	Description
1		8	Excellent Dark Site	Airglow is very weak and near horizon Zodiacal Light is across the night sky Milky Way casts shadows
2		7.5	Dark Site	Airglow is weakly visible Zodiacal Light casts shadows Milky way is very detailed
3		7	Rural	Clouds are faintly lit at horizon Zodiacal light visible well above horizon Milky Way appears complex
4		6.5	Rural/ Suburban	Clouds are lit only at horizon Zodiacal Light is visible halfway above horizon Milky Way structure starts to show
5		6	Suburban	Clouds and ground are faintly lit Some Zodiacal Light Milky Way is slightly more visible overhead
6		5.5	Bright Suburban	The sky glows gray at horizon Constellations are visible Milky Way visible overhead
7		5	Suburban/ Urban	The sky has a gray/yellow glow Bright constellations are visible No Milky Way
8		4.5	City	The sky has an orangeish glow Brightest constellations are visible No Milky Way
9		4 at best	Inner-City	The sky has a bright glow Only bright stars are visible No Milky Way

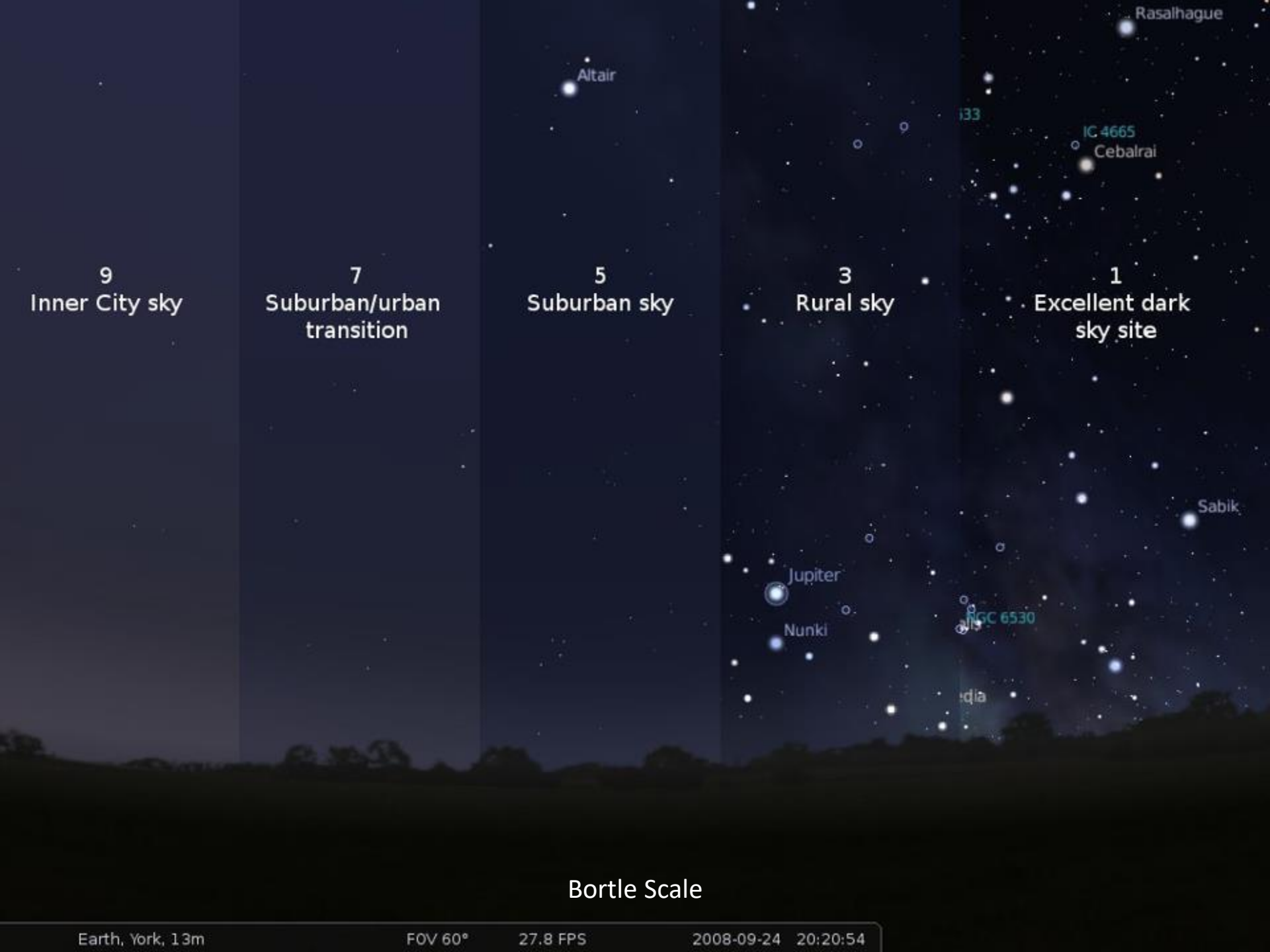


Light Pollution Map - Virginia



Natural unpolluted starry sky

Night Sky Brightness Comparison Nomogram (design by H. Spoelstra)



9
Inner City sky

7
Suburban/urban
transition

5
Suburban sky

3
Rural sky

1
Excellent dark
sky site

Altair

Rasalhague

IC 33

IC 4665
Cebalrai

Sabik

Jupiter

Nunki

NGC 6530

Idia

Bortle Scale



Bortle Scale



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 8
SAN JOSE, CA

Class 8: City sky



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 7
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

Class 7: Suburban/urban transition



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 6
LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA

Class 6: Bright suburban sky

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LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 5
MONTE BELLO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE, CA

Class 5: Suburban sky



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 4
PIGEON POINT LIGHTHOUSE, CA

Class 4: Rural/suburban transition



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 3
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, OR

Class 3: Rural sky



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 2
LASSEN NATIONAL PARK, CA

Class 2: Typical truly dark site

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LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 1
EUREKA DUNES, DEATH VALLEY NP, CA

Class 1: Excellent dark-sky site



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 8
SAN JOSE, CA



LIGHT POLLUTION LEVEL - 1
EUREKA DUNES, DEATH VALLEY NP, CA

Side-by-Side Comparison