



Pleiades

Pleiades PLEE-ee-deez
Distance 440 ly
RA 03:47:24 - DEC +24:07
Distance, age, and number of stars are all approximate and estimates have varied significantly over the past decade. Recent values put the distance at about 440 light years, the age somewhere between 75 and 150 million years old, and the number of stars 1,000. The cluster is roughly 12 light years across.

Aldebaran

Aldebaran al-DEB-ah-ran
Magnitude: 0.85
Distance: 65 ly
RA 04:35:55 - DEC +16:30:33
Spectral Class: K5III / M2V
"Aldebaran" is Arabic for "follower" and follows it does - the Pleiades! Notice how it is right under that beautiful little cluster in the eastern sky early on December evenings, following it as they both appear to move up - westward, in our skies. A "red" giant, Aldebaran is 44 times the diameter of our Sun.