

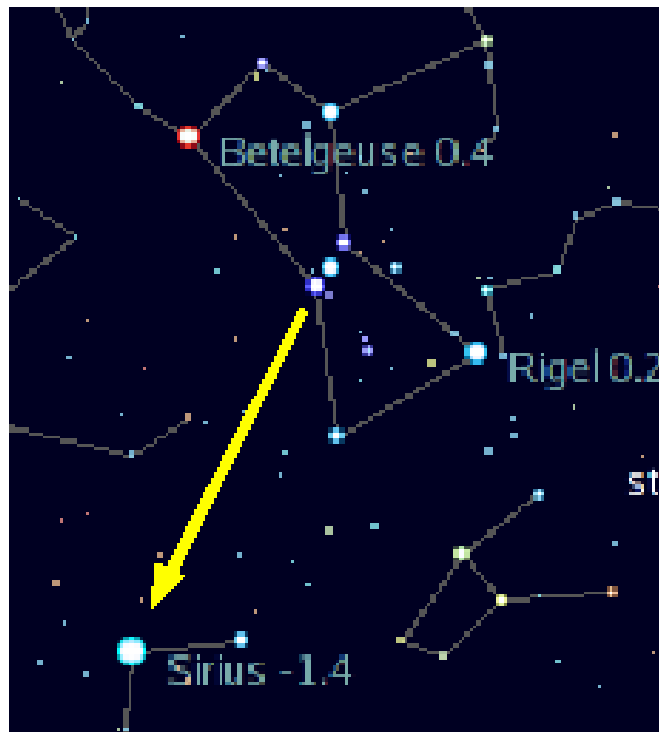
# STANDARD DEVIATIONS: Dog Days Diversion

Greetings,

The heat seems to have settled in. We're in that sweltering soporific season, The Dog Days of Summer.

Merriam-Webster describes this time as "the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere." It's also a period of stagnation or inactivity.

Dog Days refers to the emerging presence of Sirius, the Dog Star, in the Northern sky. After our sun, it's the brightest star in our neck of the galactic woods. Right now it rises just before dawn in the Southeast and is easily found by following the line of "Orion's Belt." It becomes more visible as the season wears on.



{en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog\_days#/media/File:Finding\_sirius.png}

In ancient Egypt, Sirius rising was associated with the flooding of the Nile and the prosperity of crops. But in Rome and Greece it had connotations of plague and drought, when dogs and men are driven to madness by the heat.



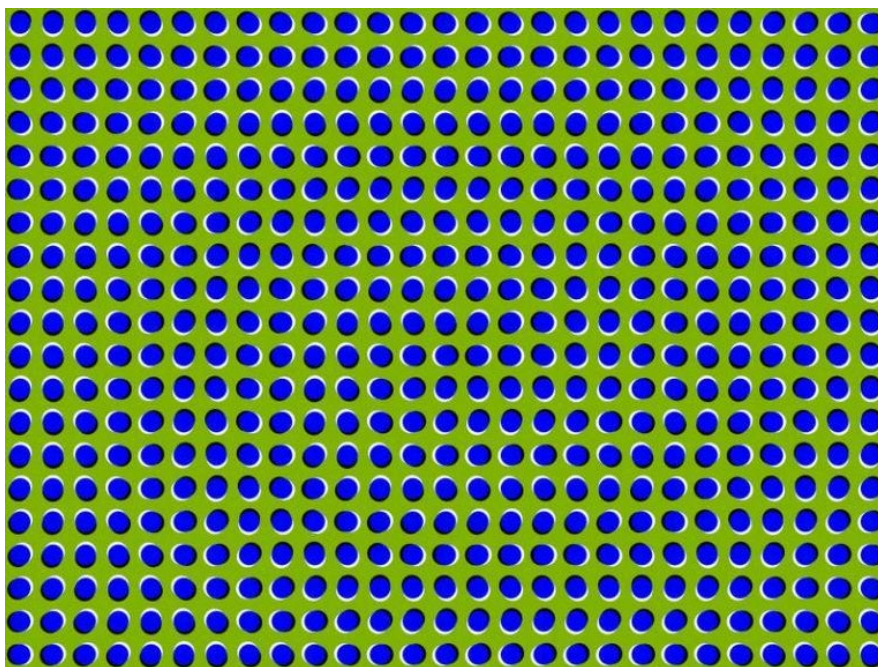
I'm just using it as an excuse to be lazy. If you are anything like me (Lord help you) and idleness gets tiresome, then perhaps this little diversion will help pass the time. I've created a crossword puzzle with **words you'll use in your lab**. I'm offering it as a challenge to all the Utah labs and I'll reward a successful submission with a special biosafety surprise!

My aim here is to encourage some teamwork, stimulate some neurons, and give you something better to do than complain about the heat. Follow the link to the online site of the puzzle. Fill it in and print the result to a pdf and return it to me. I'll choose a winner and send out the answers in another post.

<https://crosswordlabs.com/embed/lab-letters>

Have a great week and be safe,

Bryan



Sometimes we just see what we want to see.

