



# Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition

*To Celebrate, Promote and Protect Dark Skies*

## Dark Sky Moment – January 2021

**Supergiant stars show their colors.** On cold winter nights hot stars twinkle overhead, but some are hotter than others! At only 3600 degrees, Betelgeuse [ BEE – tell – juice ] twinkles pale orange at Orion’s shoulder, about a hands-width at arm’s-length above Orion’s belt, while at his knee Rigel [ RYE – jel ] glitters like a blue diamond at over 12,000 degrees. Both of these supergiant stars are less than 10 million years old, and within 100,000 years both will end their short stellar lives in supernova explosions, briefly becoming bright enough to be visible in the daytime.

[92 words]

### Fun Facts

#### Betelgeuse

temperature 3600 K;  
10th brightest star in the sky  
mass 17 X sun  
size 760 X sun  
luminosity 126,000 X sun  
age ~8 million years

#### Rigel

temperature 12,100 K  
7th brightest star in the sky  
mass 20 X sun  
size 80 X sun  
luminosity 120,000 X sun  
age ~8 million years

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