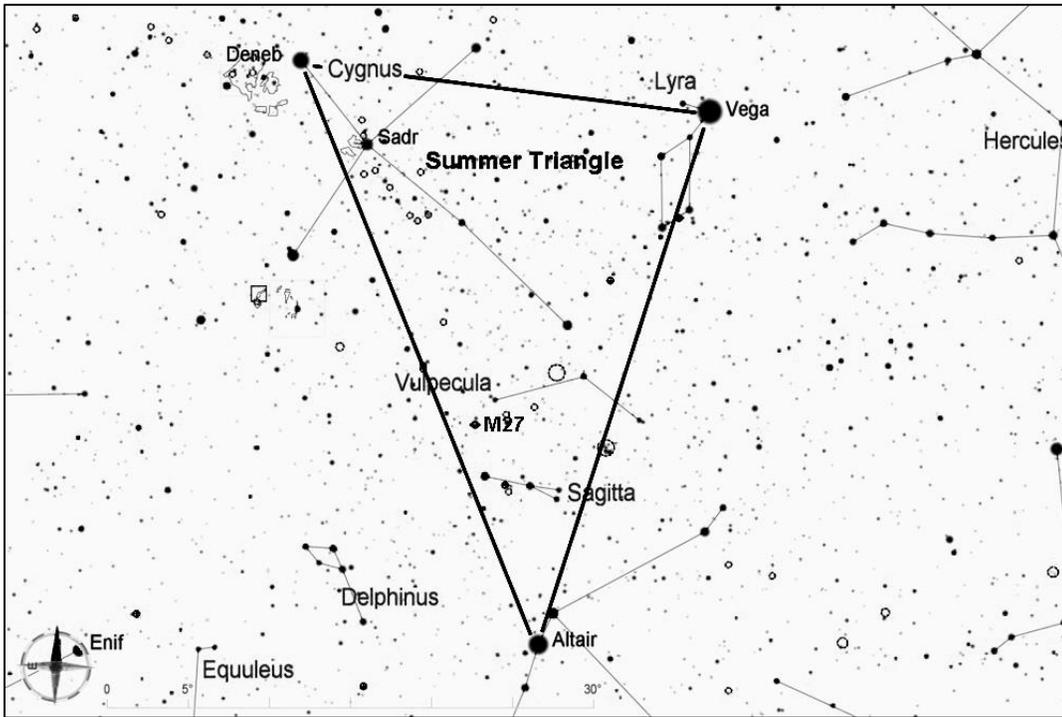


## NGC 6819 (Foxhead Cluster), Open Cluster in Cygnus

This rich open cluster contains about 150 stars, and it lies about 7,200 light years away. At a magnitude of 7.3, it should be easy to see with binoculars (although a telescope is needed to resolve its stars, which are all dimmer than magnitude 11). At medium to high magnification, the cluster does have an eerie resemblance to an animal's head with pointy ears.



Start by finding the Summer Triangle, which consists of the three of the brightest stars in the sky--Vega, Deneb, and Altair. The Summer Triangle is high overhead throughout the summer, and it sinks lower in the west as fall progresses.

For this star hop, start from Deneb, the first-magnitude star that forms the tail of Cygnus, the swan (or if you visualize the brightest stars of Cygnus as a cross shape, Deneb is at the top of the cross).

From Deneb, look to the southwest for Sadr, the magnitude 2 star at the center of the Cygnus cross shape. About 8 degrees to the northwest, find  $\delta$  (delta) Cygni, which is the western point of the cross shape. Use Sadr and  $\delta$  Cygni to visualize a long narrow triangle, as shown below, and NGC 6819 is at the third point of this triangle, about 5 degrees south of  $\delta$ .

