



December 2017 Sky Events

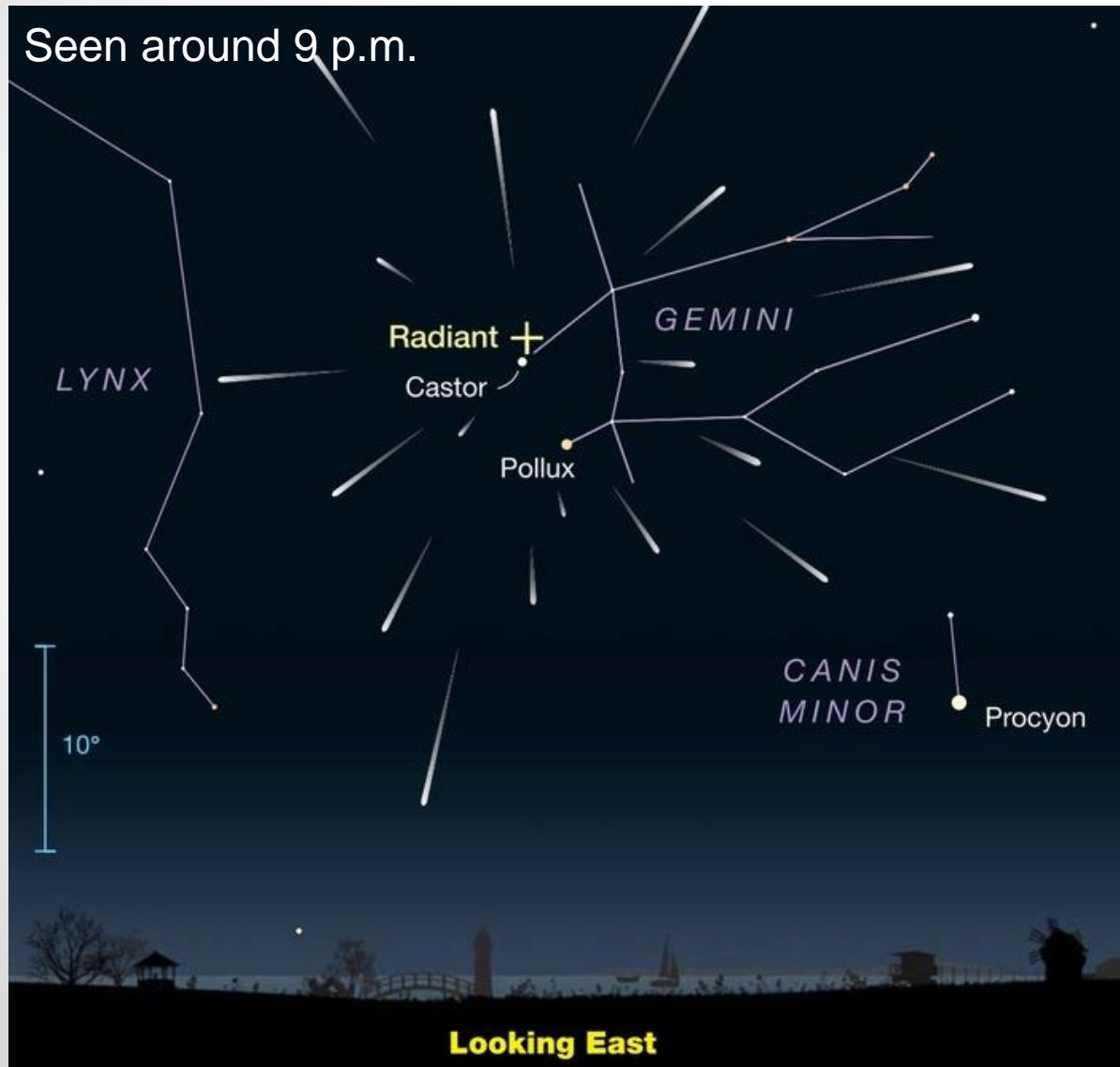
Geminid Meteor Shower

- ★ The **Geminid Meteor Shower** peaks the night of **Wednesday, December 13th** and into the early morning hours of **Thursday the 14th**, with estimates upward of 100 meteors per hour under ideal conditions.
- ★ The meteors appear to radiate from the direction of the **constellation Gemini**— hence their name.
- ★ The Geminids are associated with an object named **3200 Phaethon** which is thought to be an asteroid or extinct comet with an orbital period of only 523 days.
- ★ With meteors travelling at a medium speed of 22 miles per second (about 80,000 mph!), the shower often produces bright meteors called bolides, or *fireballs*.
- ★ This year the Geminids will not be impacted by intense moonlight. With clear skies from a dark location, meteor hunters should find a good show.



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Geminid Meteor Shower



Around 9 p.m. on Wednesday the 13th the Geminid meteors will appear to radiate from this area of the sky.

By midnight and into the early morning hours on Thursday the 14th, the radiant point will be high in the sky near the meridian.

Image courtesy of Sky & Telescope