

## A Waxing Gibbous Moon Passes through Gemini

Watch the waxing gibbous Moon glide past the twin stars of the zodiac constellation Gemini on the nights of **February 12-14**. Although these two bright heavenly stars appear adjacent in the skies above, the twins, **Castor and Pollux**, are quite different.

Your unaided eyes will tell you that Pollux not only appears brighter than Castor, but also glows a different color. Can you see Pollux's cooler yellow-orange color, compared to the hot white glow of Castor? Pollux is located nearer to Earth than Castor. Castor's light comes to your eyes from 51 light years ago, while Pollux shines from a closer 34 light years – both very near to us by astronomical standards!

In mythology, these two star names derive from the immortal twin sons of Zeus and Leda.

