

Mars Visits the Beehive Star Cluster

On the night of **June 2**, the planet Mars appears to pass among the stars of the Beehive open star cluster in the constellation Cancer. This conjunction occurs because the Beehive is located along the ecliptic – the approximate path the Sun, the Moon, and the planets follow across the sky.

Joining the scene are the planet Venus and the two bright stars that represent the heads of the Gemini twins, Pollux and Castor.

Although Mars and the Beehive star cluster appear close, those young stars are some 570 light years behind Mars! Use binoculars or a small telescope to help you enjoy the beauty of both orange Mars and the stars in the cluster.***

