

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)
June 2024 Sky Events

A Waxing Crescent Moon Passes through Gemini

Watch the waxing crescent Moon glide past the twin stars of the zodiac constellation Gemini on the nights of **June 7-9**. 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 blue-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, Castor and Pollux, derive from the immortal twin sons of Zeus and Leda.

Looking at Castor in a small telescope will reveal it as a triple star system. Its two bright primary component stars will appear very close, as they orbit each other every 450 years. Further inspection at your eyepiece will reveal a widely separated and faint red dwarf companion star that is the third member of the group.

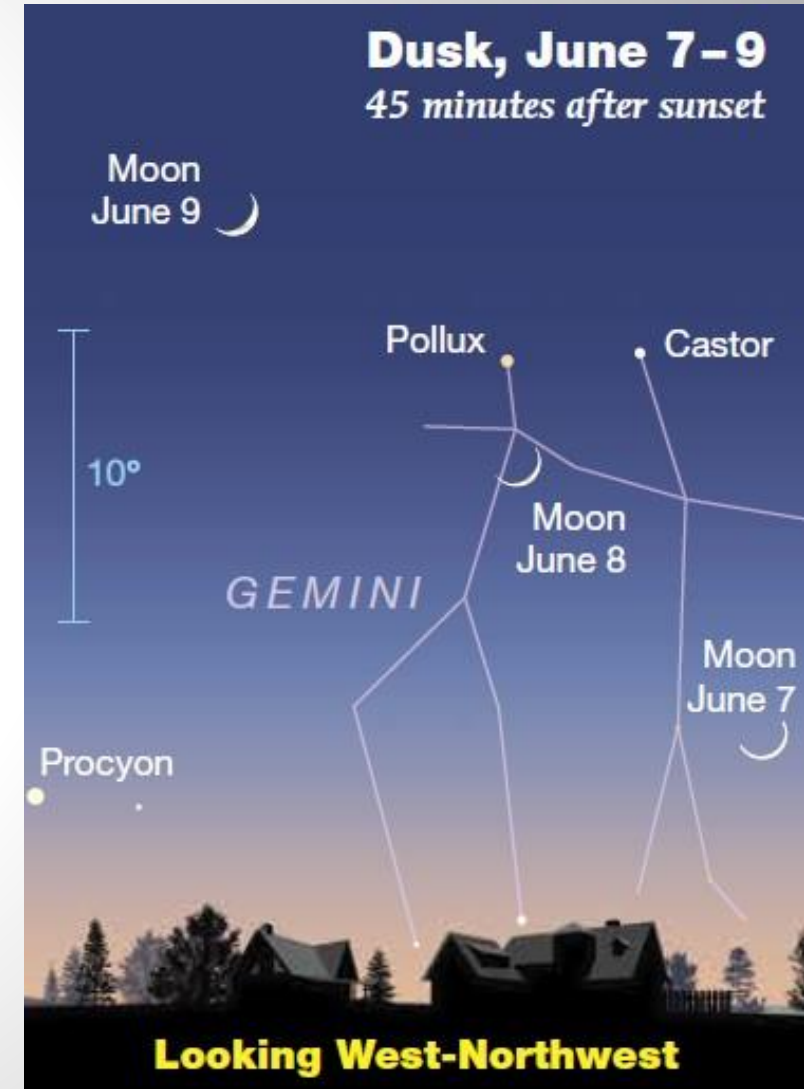


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