

Conjunction of the Moon with Spica

During the late night hours of **February 6-8**, the waning gibbous Moon can be seen gliding through the zodiac constellation Virgo, as it appears to overtake the bright star Spica. This occurs because of the Moon's eastward orbit along the "ecliptic" (the approximate celestial path of the Sun, Moon, and planets through our skies). That orbit creates a lunar movement in our skies of about 13° each day. The Moon and Spica will appear closest during this conjunction on the night of Feb. 7th.

The blue-white star Spica is the brightest star in the constellation Virgo and one of the brightest stars in our night skies. It is some 2,300 times more luminous than our Sun, and it is located some 250 light years behind our Moon!

