

The Moon Visits Venus & Jupiter

On the evenings of **May 18-20**, the waxing crescent Moon will appear to pass above the planets Venus and Jupiter in the direction of the zodiac constellation Gemini, the Twins. Joining the scene are the two bright stars Pollux and Castor, the heads of the stick-figure Gemini twins. They are located some 34 and 51 light years, respectively, behind the two bright planets.

On these May nights, brighter and closer Venus is climbing higher in our evening skies while Jupiter is descending. Jupiter will reach conjunction with the Sun on July 29th and then move into our early morning skies. Venus will continue to climb higher in our evening skies until it reaches greatest elongation east (GEE) of the Sun on August 15th. After that, Venus will begin its own slow descent in our evening skies, reaching inferior conjunction on October 23rd.

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