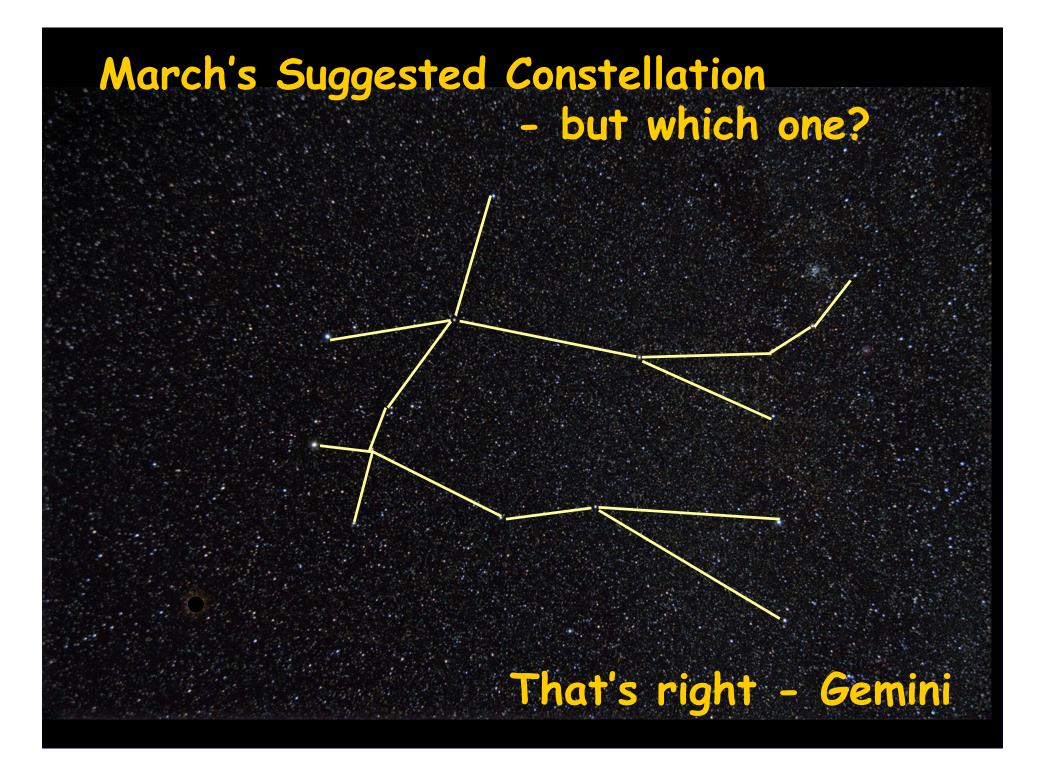
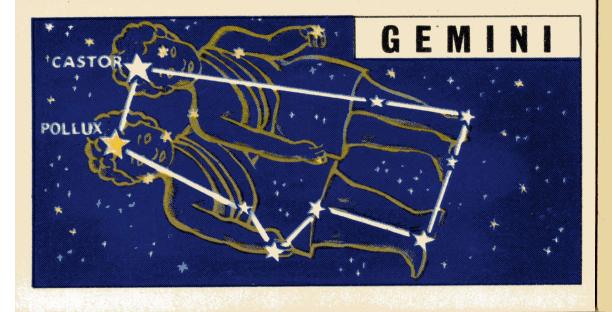
March's Suggested Constellation - but which one?

Have you got it yet?



March's Suggested Constellation





A SERIES OF 50 No. 26

OUT INTO SPACE

Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D., Sec. Royal Astronomical Society GEMINI

Gemini (Twins), third Zodiacal sign, is between Taurus and Cancer. It contains several double stars, and is represented on most Celestial maps by male twins of mythology . . . Castor and Pollux. Castor is a binary or 'double star' consisting of two white stars of approximately same magnitude, but appears as one very bright star, except when seen through a telescope. Pollux is a navigational star. Castor, Pollux and other principal Gemini stars are very noticeable, because the adjoining areas of Cancer and Lynx constellations have few stars of great magnitude.

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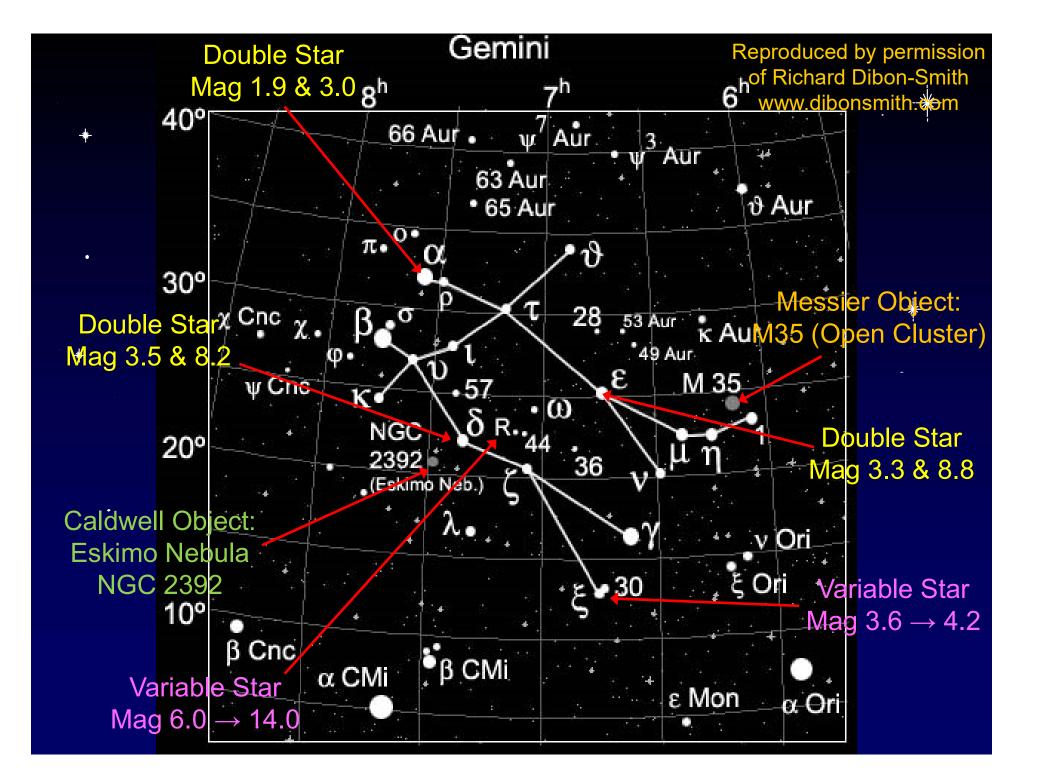
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Gemini in Greek Mythology

- The twins were half-brothers, sons of Leda. Castor was the son of the King of Sparta, but Pollux was the son of
- Zeus. Zeus had come to Leda disguised as a swan, so maybe she had unusual interests! :-) Zeus & Lyda went at it again, and had another pair of twins; Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra.
- Castor, whose father was human, was mortal whereas Pollux was immortal, being the son of Zeus. When Castor was killed by his cousin (what a family!) Pollux grieved. Zeus was so moved by this grief he placed them in the heavens, together forever.





Messier Object in Gemini



M35 (NGC 2168) – with NGC 2158 at lower right

Distance 2,800 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 5.1 Apparent Dimension 25 arc minutes Discovered 1745 Philippe Loys de Chésaeaux





Eskimo Nebula C39 (NGC 2392)

Distance 4,000 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.2 Apparent Dimension 47 arc seconds Discovered 1787 William Herschel