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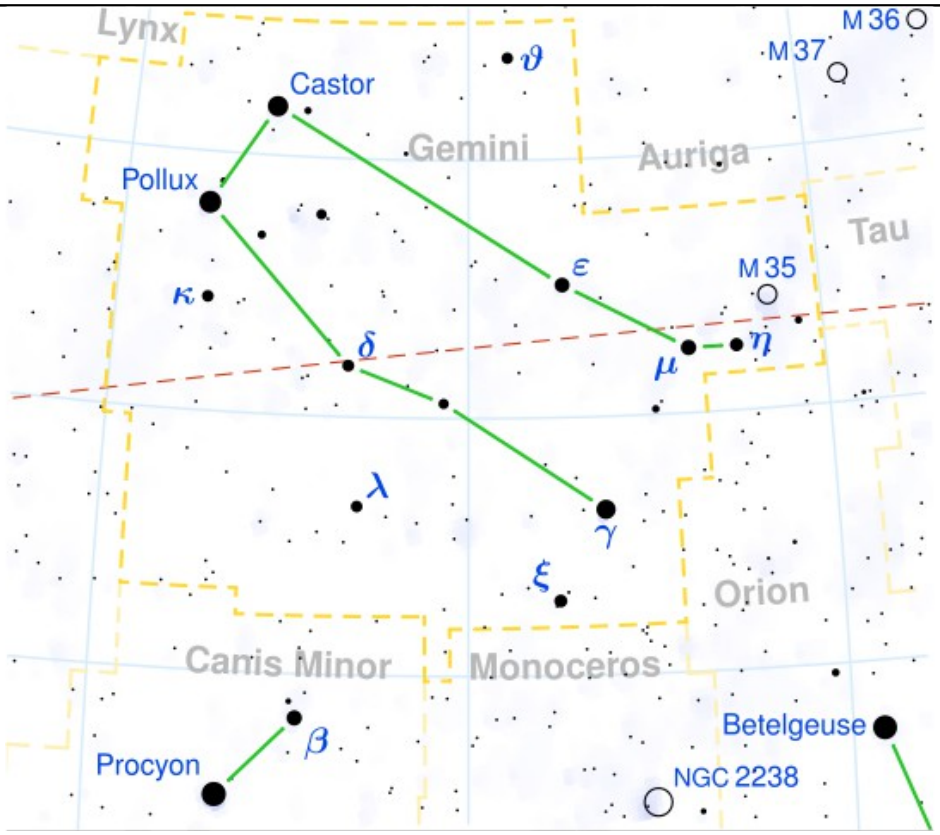
Castor



Quick Facts:

Distance: 50 light-years

Constellation: Gemini

Castor is actually a sextuple star (6 physically related stars). Each of the three stars visible in a small scope is itself a spectroscopic binary, meaning that astronomers measure the Doppler shift of spectral lines to discover their paired nature. The easy double has a faint companion red dwarf. Orbital periods are 450 years and more than 10,000 years.

Find it: Use the chart above and remember that Castor is closer to the Pole (farther north in the sky). GOTO: NAMED STARS.

Image: Torsten Bronger. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.