



Star Stories

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Today we will learn about the Gemini space capsule and the constellation that inspired its name!

Before we start, let's reflect on these questions:

- What is the Gemini space capsule?
- How were the names of spacecraft chosen?
- What is a constellation?

What is the Gemini space capsule?

The Gemini space capsule is a type of spacecraft used by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

The U.S.S. Intrepid served as a recovery vessel for Mercury and Gemini space capsule missions when the spacecraft returned to Earth.

Watch the video on the next slide to learn a bit more about the Gemini space program.





How were the names of spacecraft chosen?

The Mercury space program was the first designed by the United States to send astronauts into space.

It was named after the planet Mercury, named after the Roman messenger god and the first planet in our solar system.

Space capsule programs after Mercury continued to be named after mythological figures, some with connections to other objects in space.

Where could Gemini have received its name?

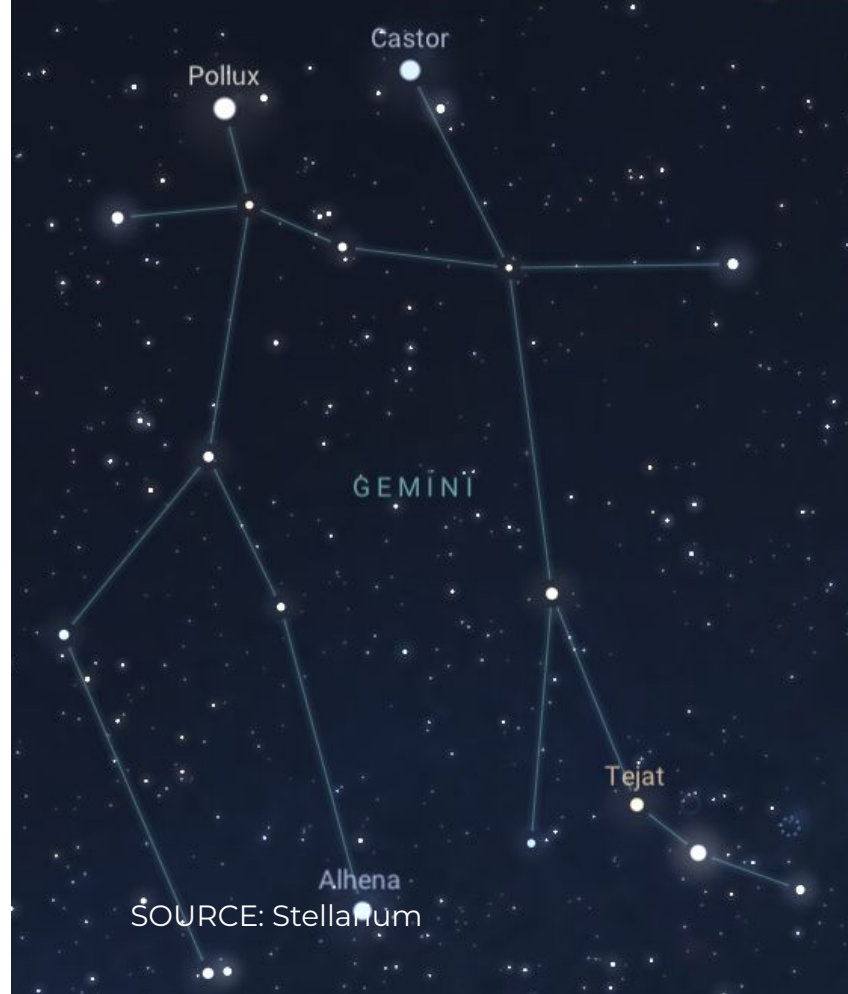


What is a constellation?

Constellations are names given to groups of stars that create recognizable shape or picture. Cultures all over the world looked into the night sky and created stories with constellations as characters.

Some constellations were used to illustrate stories that explained how people made sense of things like seasonal change.

What picture do you think Gemini makes?



Let's Hear Some Constellation Stories!

Press play on the next slide to watch a video and hear some constellation stories



Find a Constellation to Research

- Download a stargazing app such as Star Chart, Skyview Lite, SkySafari, or Star Walk 2 onto your mobile device
- Identify a constellation of interest using that application or by viewing constellations in the night sky
- Research that constellation and identify the different stories connected to that constellation.
- Share with a peer!

Reflection

- Which constellations are you the most familiar with?
- What was the most interesting thing that you learned?
- What do you want to learn more about?

For More Information

[Comparing How Different Cultures View Constellations](#)

[Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum](#)



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