

1
00:00:05,960 --> 00:00:09,900
Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,

2
00:00:09,900 --> 00:00:11,900
planets and events.

3
00:00:14,580 --> 00:00:24,420
Tonight's Sky – highlights of the March sky.

4
00:00:36,600 --> 00:00:39,500
As the brilliant stars of winter progress

5
00:00:39,500 --> 00:00:40,780
toward the west,

6
00:00:40,780 --> 00:00:44,060
the constellations of spring make their appearance.

7
00:00:44,060 --> 00:00:46,039
Two March constellations

8
00:00:46,039 --> 00:00:49,839
derived from Greek mythology, Gemini and Cancer,

9
00:00:49,840 --> 00:00:51,700
lie in the zodiac.

10
00:00:51,700 --> 00:00:54,520
The zodiac is the name for the band of sky through

11
00:00:54,520 --> 00:00:59,820
which the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to travel.

12
00:00:59,820 --> 00:01:02,939
The Gemini twins by high overhead.

13
00:01:02,939 --> 00:01:05,439
They were among Jason's Argonauts,

14
00:01:05,439 --> 00:01:13,719
who sailed the seas searching for the Golden Fleece.

15
00:01:20,140 --> 00:01:23,280
The two bright stars are the heads of the brothers,

16
00:01:23,280 --> 00:01:30,540
Castor and Pollux.

17
00:01:30,540 --> 00:01:34,980
A fuzzy patch lies near the "feet" of the Gemini twins.

18
00:01:34,980 --> 00:01:36,780
Called M35,

19
00:01:36,780 --> 00:01:39,280
it is a pretty cluster of several hundred stars.

20
00:01:58,859 --> 00:02:02,120
Cancer is often identified as a crab,

21
00:02:02,120 --> 00:02:07,920
but has also been seen as a lobster or crayfish.

22
00:02:07,920 --> 00:02:11,620
In Greek mythology, Cancer was placed in the heavens

23
00:02:11,620 --> 00:02:16,000
by Hera, wife of Zeus, to immortalize its tenacious but

24
00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:23,139
futile battle with Hercules.

25
00:02:23,139 --> 00:02:26,319
It is a much dimmer constellation than Gemini,

26
00:02:26,319 --> 00:02:30,060
and hard to see in light-polluted skies.

27
00:02:30,060 --> 00:02:37,280
Within Cancer lies the lovely Beehive Cluster.

28
00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:42,539
Ancient stargazers called it "the cloudy star."

29

00:02:42,539 --> 00:02:46,439
This large cluster contains hundreds of stars

30
00:02:46,439 --> 00:02:57,259
and lies about 577 light-years away from us.

31
00:03:10,659 --> 00:03:14,159
Before dawn, a string of planets highlight the

32
00:03:14,159 --> 00:03:19,319
eastern sky: Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter.

33
00:03:19,319 --> 00:03:21,919
Jupiter and Saturn are the largest

34
00:03:21,919 --> 00:03:23,859
planets in our solar system,

35
00:03:23,919 --> 00:03:30,059
while Mars is second only to Mercury as the smallest.

36
00:03:30,060 --> 00:03:33,439
With a backyard telescope, the rings of Saturn

37
00:03:33,439 --> 00:03:36,560
and the bands of Jupiter are clearly visible,

38
00:03:36,560 --> 00:03:44,599
while Mars appears as a small, orange-red disk.

39
00:03:44,599 --> 00:03:49,560
The night sky is always a celestial showcase.

40
00:03:51,659 --> 00:03:59,579
Explore its wonders from your own backyard.