



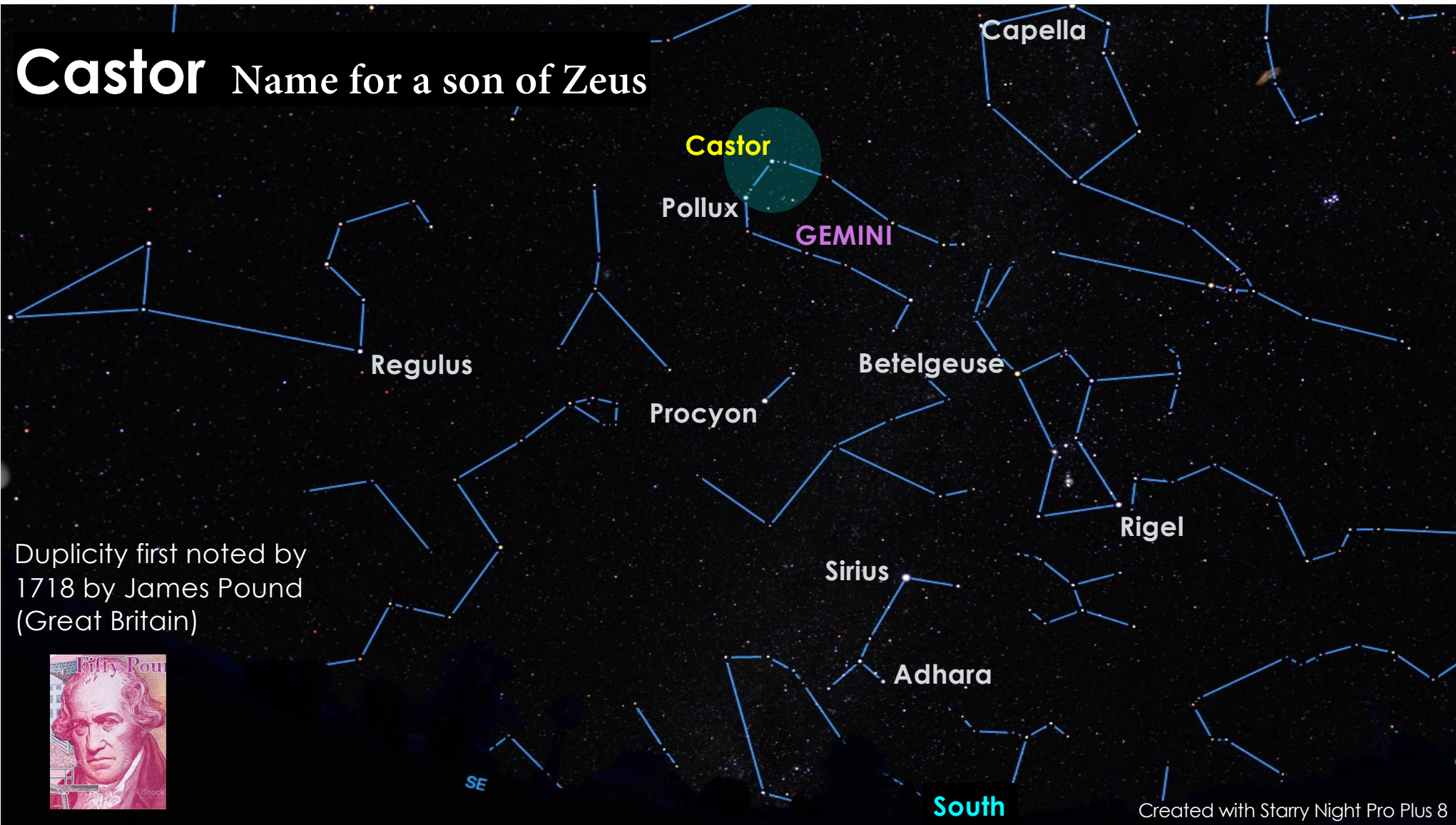
ROYAL
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Double Star of the Month

***Castor
(Alpha Geminorum)***

Trevor Chandler

Castor Name for a son of Zeus

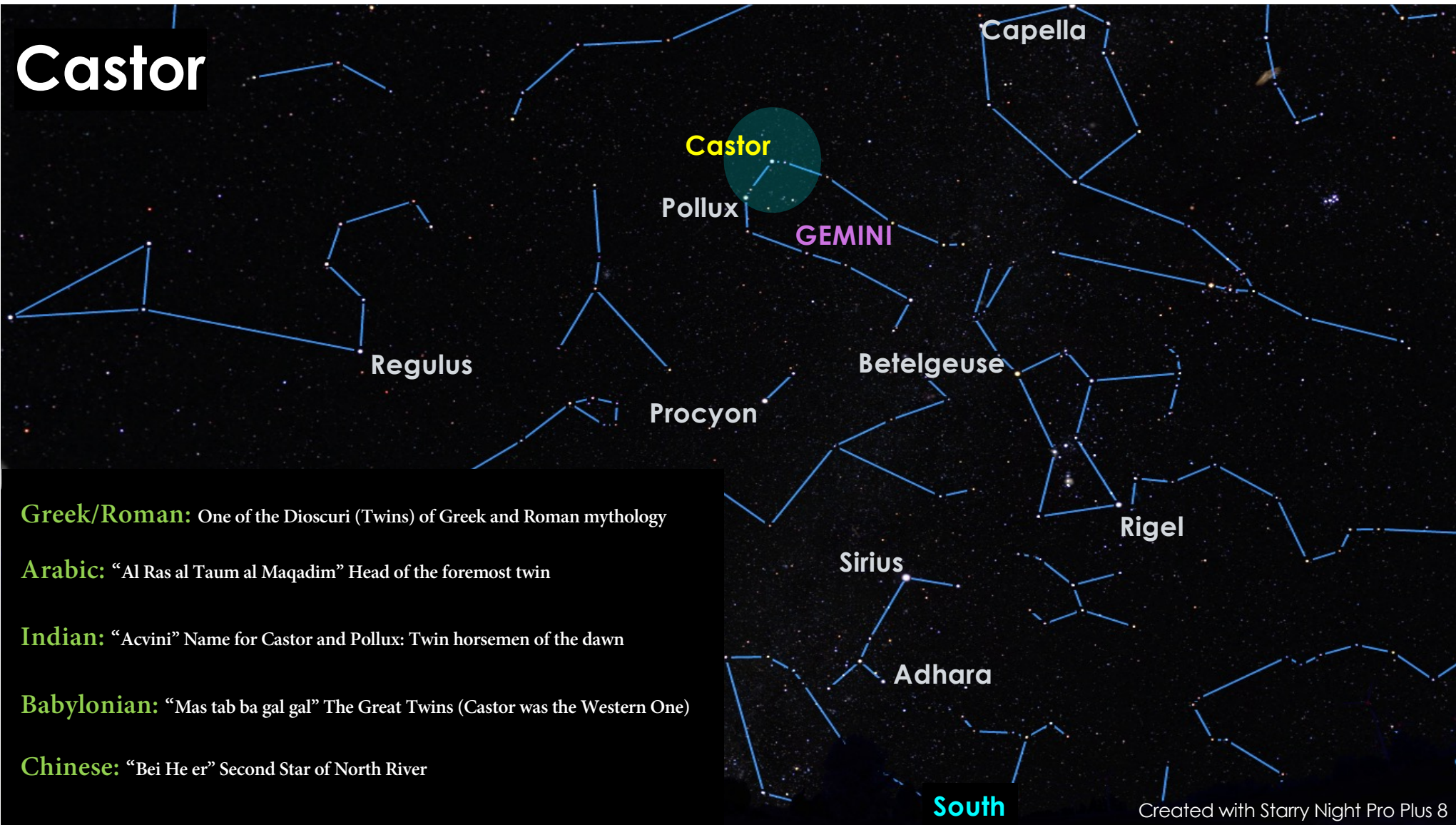


Duplicity first noted by
1718 by James Pound
(Great Britain)



Created with Starry Night Pro Plus 8

Castor



Greek/Roman: One of the Dioscuri (Twins) of Greek and Roman mythology

Arabic: “Al Ras al Taum al Maqadim” Head of the foremost twin

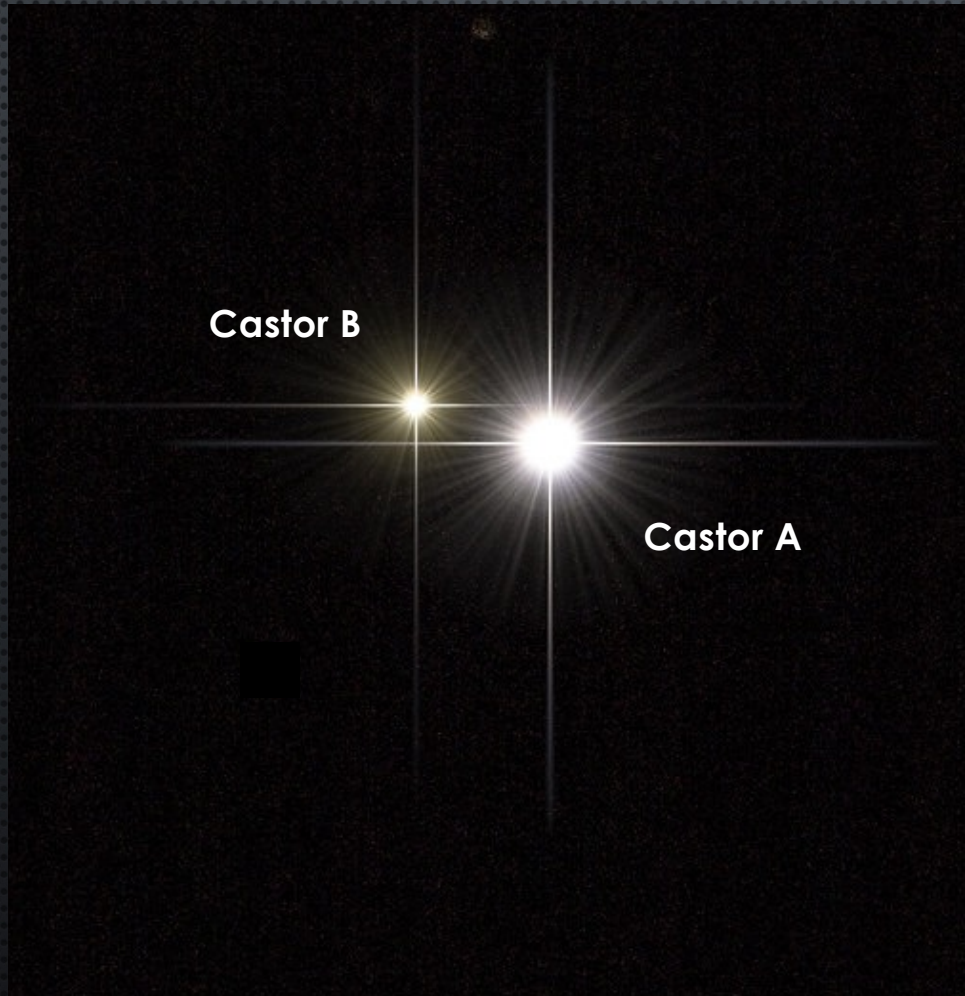
Indian: “Acvini” Name for Castor and Pollux: Twin horsemen of the dawn

Babylonian: “Mas tab ba gal gal” The Great Twins (Castor was the Western One)

Chinese: “Bei He er” Second Star of North River

Created with Starry Night Pro Plus 8

Castor is an impressive double...



Castor B
Mag. 3.0

6" (100 AU, average)
Period: 445 years



Castor A
Mag 1.6

... but there are really 3 stars (In our backyard telescopes)



...although the third star is a faint red dwarf.

Castor C

Mag. 9 (M1 dwarf)



70"
>1,000 AU
Period ~14,000 years

Castor B

Mag. 3.0



6" (100 AU, average)
Period: 445 years



Castor A

Mag 1.6

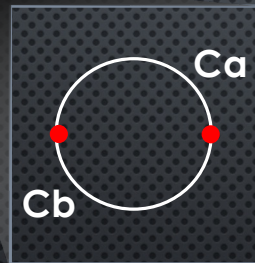
Minimum separation A-B: 2" in 1970; Maximum 6.5" in 2100

Each of these stars is itself a set of twins (spectroscopic)
Castor is really a sextuplet.

Castor C (Flare stars)

YY Gem

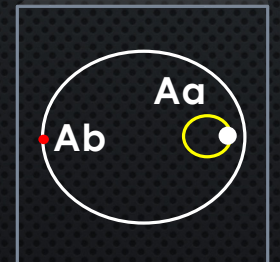
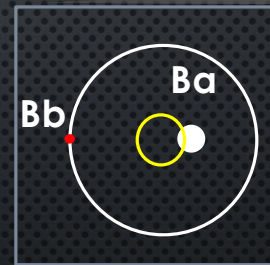
Eclipsing binary
Mag. 8.9-9.6
Period 0.8 d



Castor B

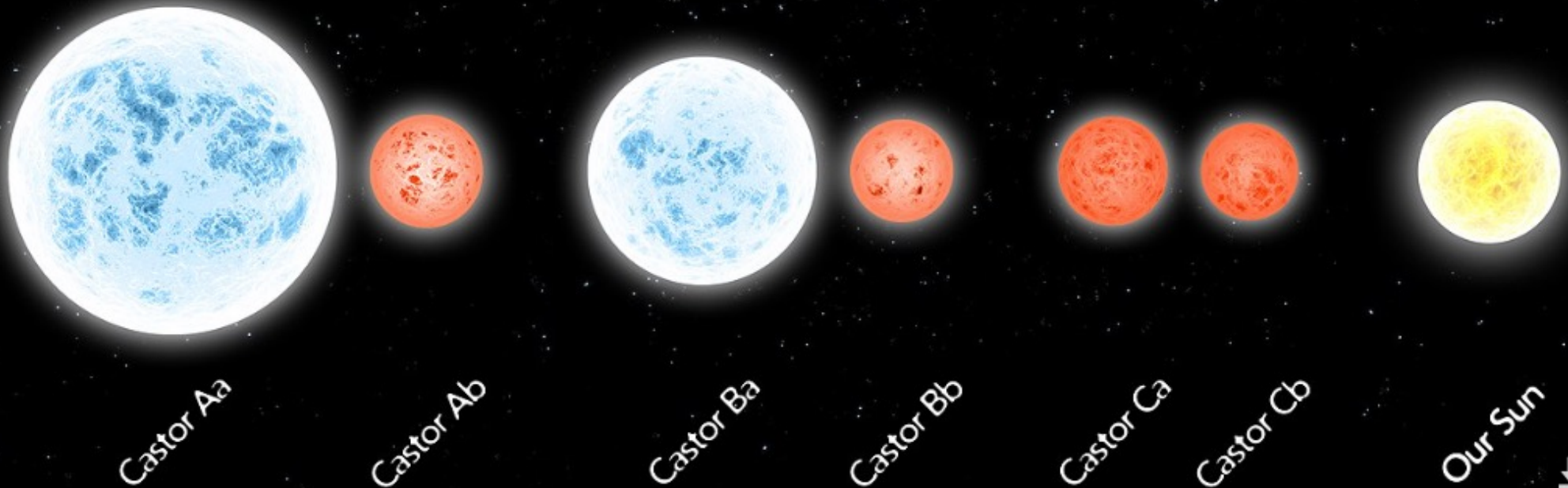


Castor A



Summary

Distance: 51 Light years (Pollux twice as far)
Magnitude: 1.58 (Brightest second magnitude star)
Spectrum of Primary: A1V (normal hydrogen-fusing star)
Number of Components: Six
Visible components: Aa, Ba, Ca+Cb (as one star)



Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech



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Thank you for stopping by

