

# Summer begins

by James Stokley

The moon is the only object in the June evening skies brighter than Jupiter. Shining in the south, in the constellation of Libra, Jupiter is more than seven times as bright as the brightest star.

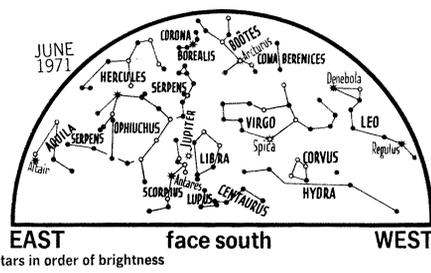
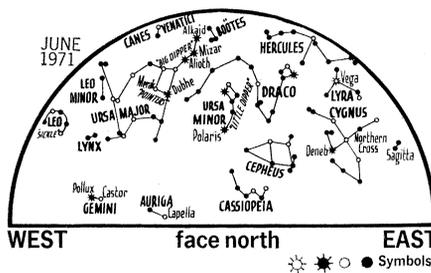
Jupiter is the only planet visible at the times of our maps. These show the skies as they appear at about 11 p.m. local daylight saving time on June 1. On the 15th they appear similarly about 10 p.m. They would look the same on the 30th at 9 p.m., but at that time the sky will still be too bright to permit you to see the stars.

Venus rises in the east more than an hour before sunrise. By that time the sky will have brightened with dawn. However, Venus is so bright that you will be able to see it after other stars and planets have vanished.

The most brilliant star this month is Vega in Lyra. Other first-magnitude stars are Spica in Virgo and Arcturus in Boötes.

On June 21 at 9:20 p.m., EDT, the sun will reach its farthest north position for the year—the solstice. In the Northern Hemisphere it is the beginning of summer; in the Southern Hemisphere it is the beginning of winter. At this time the sun will be directly over a point on the Tropic of Cancer about 700 miles off lower California.

We call June 21, the day of the solstice, the beginning of summer; people in England often refer to it as



WEST face north EAST EAST face south WEST  
 ☼ \* ● Symbols for stars in order of brightness

“Midsummer Day.” In summer the sun’s rays fall nearly vertically on northern countries. Thus they are more concentrated and have a greater heating effect than when the sun is lower at other times of the year.

After June 21 the sun will move southward until next December. In

September, at the end of summer, the sun will be directly over the equator, as it was in March, at the beginning of spring. If you consider summer as the quarter of the year when the sun is farthest north, it extends from about May 7 to Aug. 6. The solstice is in the middle of this period. □

CELESTIAL TIMETABLE		
June	EDT	
2	10:00 a.m.	Moon farthest from earth, distance 251,300 miles
7	1:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Jupiter
8	5:00 a.m.	Moon passes south of Antares
	8:04 p.m.	Full moon
13	9:00 a.m.	Moon passes north of Mars
15	9:24 p.m.	Moon in last quarter
17	6:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 229,500 miles
21	6:00 a.m.	Mercury behind sun
	9:20 p.m.	Sun farthest north; summer begins in Northern Hemisphere
22	5:57 p.m.	New moon
30	5:00 a.m.	Moon nearest; distance 252,000 miles
	2:11 p.m.	Moon in first quarter

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