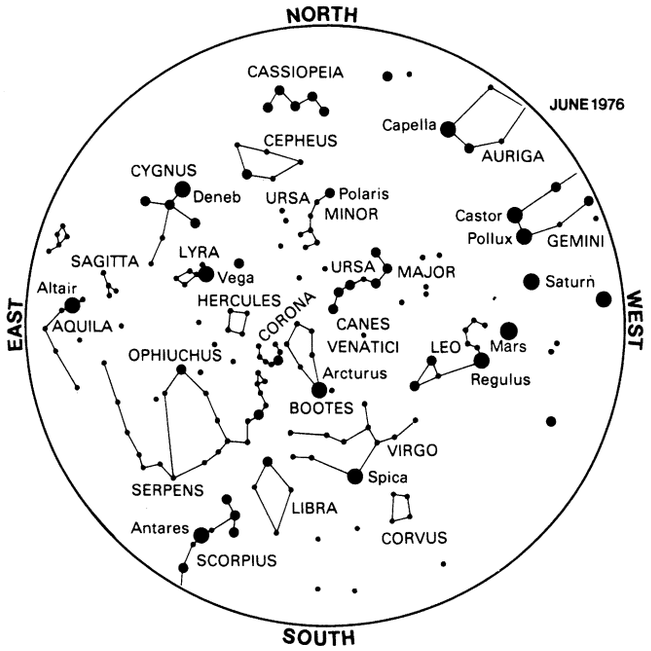
STARS OF JUNE

CELESTIAL TIME TABLE

June	2	2:00 am EDT	Moon passes south of Saturn
		10:00 pm	Moon passes south of Mars
	5	8:20 am	Moon in first quarter
	9	3:00 pm	Moon nearest earth, distance 225,900 miles
	12	12:15 am	Full moon
	15	5:00 am	Mercury farthest west of sun
	17	midnight	Venus behind sun
	19	9:15 am	Moon in last quarter
	21	2:24 am	Sun farthest north, beginning of summer in northern countries
		1:00 pm	Moon farthest from earth, distance 251,400 miles
	23	7:00 pm	Moon passes Jupiter
	27	10:50 am	New Moon
	29	2:00 pm	Moon passes south of Saturn



BY JAMES STOKLEY

Stars, rather than planets, form the main attraction of the evening sky in June. Only Saturn, equal in brilliance to a bright first-magnitude star, is easily visible. It's low in the west at the beginning of the month as twilight ends. A little higher and farther south stands Mars.

Overhead you'll see the constellation Boötes with Arcturus, which is one of the brightest stars in the night sky. Sirius, prominent in winter evenings and brightest of all, is followed by two others (Canopus and Rigil Kentaurus) which are too far south to be visible from most of the United States. And then comes Arcturus.

Almost as bright is Vega which shines in Lyra toward the east. Sometimes, in fact, it is rated ahead of Arcturus but according to recent authorities, Vega appears about 10 percent fainter. However, it is 10 light years closer than Arcturus which is 36 light years distant. In actual luminosity, Arcturus is about twice as bright as Vega.

An interesting display may be observed on June 23 and 24 when the crescent moon passes Jupiter as it moves toward the sun. On the 23rd the moon will be just above the planet, as seen from the United States. Later that day, at about 7 p.m., EDT, when both are below our horizon, the moon will pass in front of Jupiter. This event, called an occultation, will be visible in southeastern Asia as well as from the Pacific Ocean. When they appear in America on the 24th, the moon will be underneath Jupiter.

On June 24, at 2:24 a.m., EDT, the sun will be farthest north in its annual circuit of the sky. It will then be standing directly over the Tropic of Cancer at a point in Yunnan Province of southern China. This is the solstice, which marks the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere. The 21st will be the longest day of the year, Dec. 21 the shortest. □

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