

Maker Movement

DO IT YOURSELF NEBULA JAR

WHAT IS A GALAXY?

According to the National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space (2005)¹, a galaxy is “an enormous aggregation of stars, gas, dust, and dark matter bound together by its own gravity”.

(Image: Galaxy NGC 949, which lies over 30 million light-years away in the constellation of Triangulum. Image credit: NASA).



WHAT IS A NEBULA?

A nebula (pl. nebulae) derives from the Latin word for “cloud”. It is a cloud of gas and dust that exists in the space between stars. When enough gas and dust collect a nebula, it quickly collapses into one or more stars (Space Science: How the Universe Works, 2004)².

(Image: Nebula “the Spider”. Image credits: NASA/JPL-Caltech/2MASS).

¹ GLOVER, Linda K. [et al]. **National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space**. Washington, D. C.: National Geographic, 2005. p. 80.

² SPACE Science: How the Universe Works. Danbury, CT: Grolier, 2004. p. 20.

NEBULA JAR INSTRUCTIONS

Supply items:

- Clean glass jar with a lid;
- Tempura paint (at least 2 colors);
- Cotton balls;
- Glitter;
- Water.



(Image credit: Momdot)

1. Fill 1/3 of the jar with water.
2. Add several drops of paint to the water, put the lid on and shake to mix the paint and water.
3. Add a bit of glitter.
4. Stretch cotton balls and add them to the water until the bottom is filled with cotton, pressing them down into the water with a stick.
5. Fill another 1/3 of the jar with water and add several drops of contrasting paint and repeat steps 2 to 4.
6. Fill the final 1/3 of the jar with water and repeat steps 2 to 4.



(Image credit: Momdot)

References:

GLOVER, Linda K. [et al]. **National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space**. Washington, D. C.: National Geographic, 2005. p. 72.

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