

EXTRACT  
& ACTIVITIES

THE MYSTERIES  
OF THE  
*Universe*

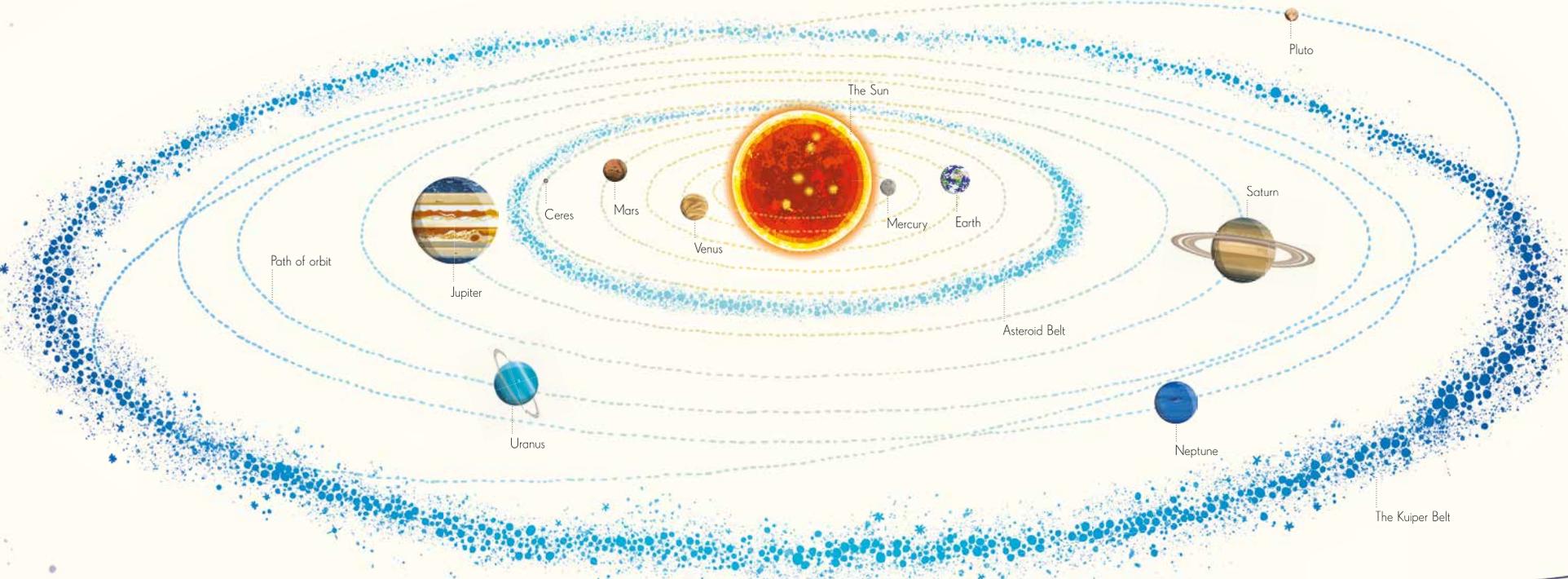
EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE PACK



# The Solar System

There may be another world orbiting at a huge distance from the Sun - we just haven't discovered it yet!

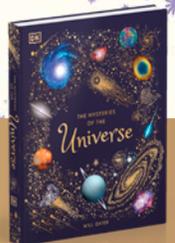
The Sun sits at the centre of an enormous family of objects that whirl around it as they all move through the Milky Way. Together, this extraordinary collection is known as the Solar System. It includes the eight main planets and their moons, and also a fascinating array of smaller worlds like Pluto and Ceres. It's also home to asteroids and comets – these objects are tiny compared to planets like Earth, but they swarm around the Sun in vast numbers.



Imagine if we found another planet orbiting our sun!  
What do you think it would look like?

Suitable for 7-9 years

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The Pillars of Creation are found in the Eagle Nebula, about 5,870 light-years from Earth.



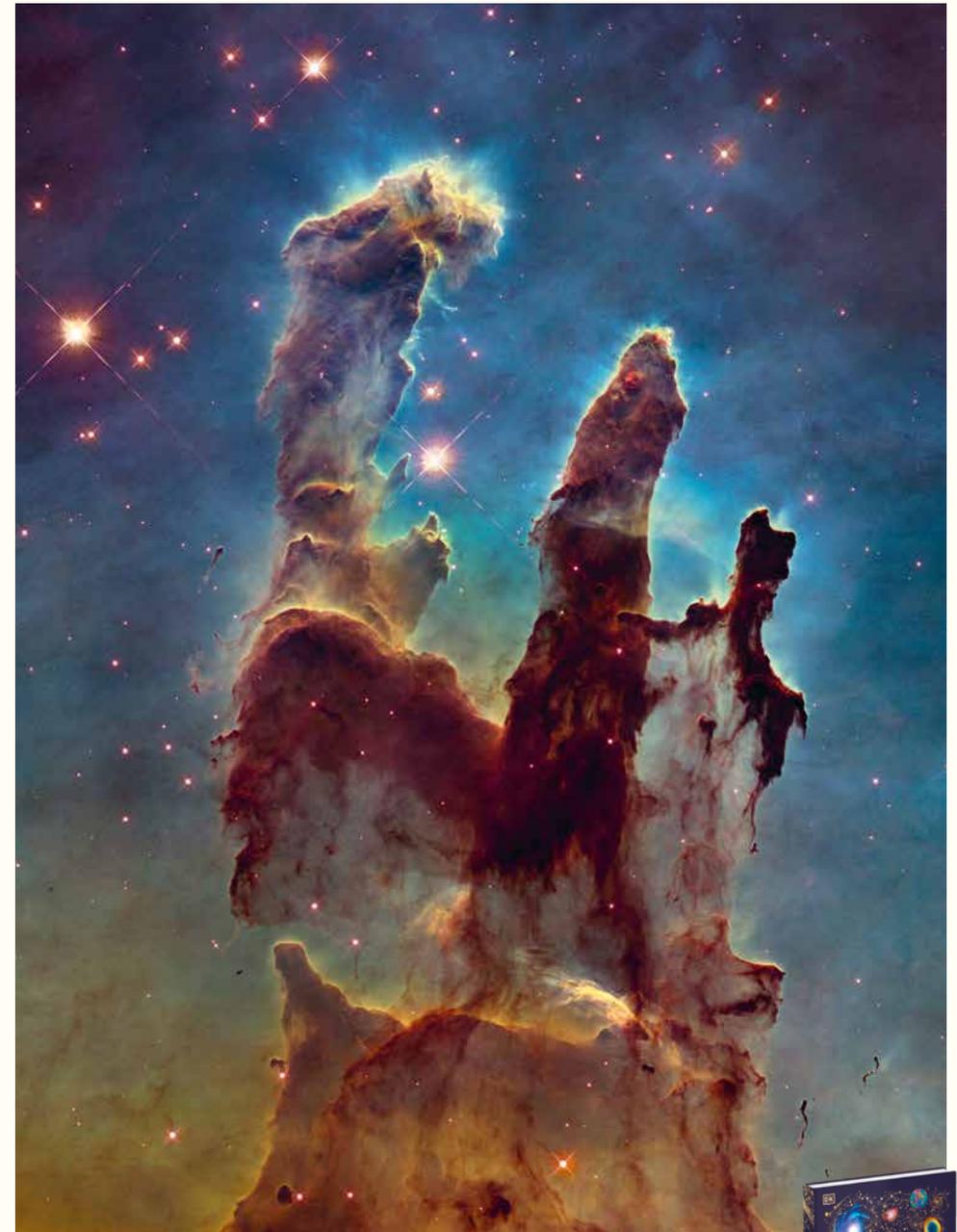
The Pillars of Creation

# The Pillars of Creation

The billowing clouds of dust and gas where stars form don't last forever. They are gradually sculpted and eventually destroyed by particle-filled winds and the harsh light produced by the stars around them – often the very ones they gave birth to.

The spectacular Pillars of Creation, in the constellation Serpens, give us a glimpse of this extraordinary process in action. The name comes from their location within an enormous stellar nursery called the Eagle Nebula, and the fact that there is a smattering of baby stars cocooned inside them. These dense fingers of gas and dust will ultimately break up and drift out into the galaxy, their glowing forms and swirling shapes never to be seen again.

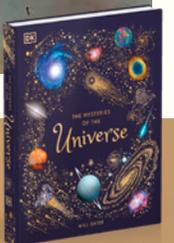
In this image, the green is nitrogen and hydrogen, the red is sulphur, and the blue is oxygen.

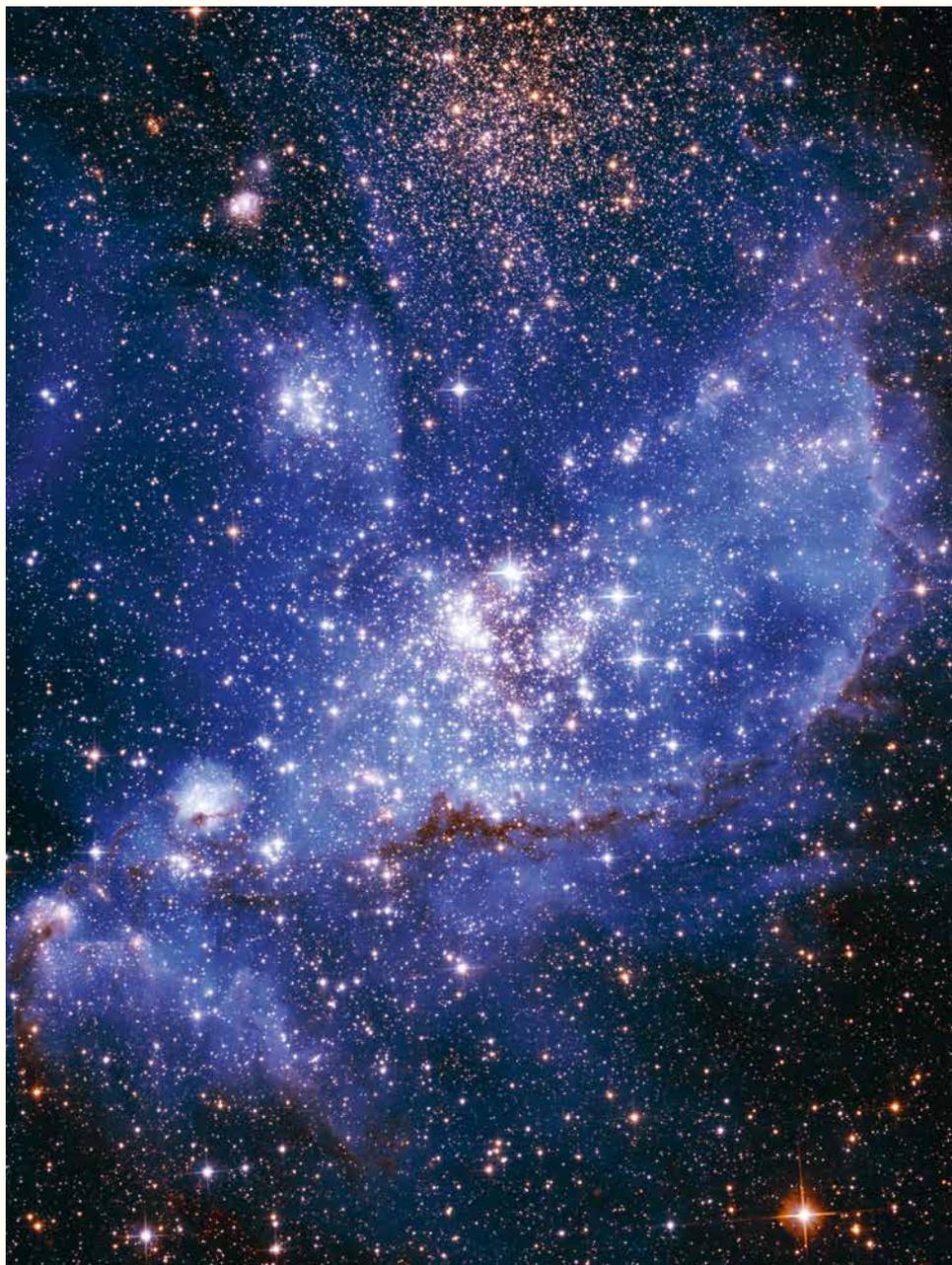


**Nebulas are gigantic clouds of dust and gas scattered throughout the galaxy.  
What coloured nebula would you like to see?**

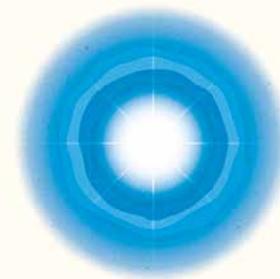
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# Stars



Every night, the sky glitters with the light of countless twinkling stars. They appear as tiny points to us only because they are so far away. If we could travel to explore them up close we'd see that they are, like our Sun, blazing balls that shine as matter fuses, or joins together, inside them.

Since the stars are so distant, it takes a long time for their light to reach us. For example, the light we see now from the middle star in Orion's Belt, Alnilam, started its journey almost 2,000 years ago. When you look at the sparkling night sky, you're actually gazing deep into the past. Isn't that amazing?

Stars can have life-spans of  
billions of years!

This group of stars  
was photographed  
by the Hubble  
Space Telescope.



Once you've read this page, take a look up at the night sky.  
What stars can you see?

Suitable for 7-9 years

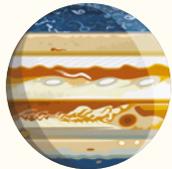
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# Create your own cosmos!

After reading the previous pages, have a go at creating your very own universe! When you're ready, start drawing planets, stars, black holes and more in the space on this page! If you are stuck for ideas, have a read below about more of the wonderful things found in our universe.

**Black Holes:** The most mysterious objects in the universe! These warp the space around them with such a strong gravitational pull even light itself is dragged into them!



**Exo-planets:** These are planets that orbit a star other than our sun. There are thousands of different exoplanets out there!

**Supernova:** Sometimes a star can explode in a violent blast. Astronomers call this spectacular event a supernova!



**Galaxies:** Our Sun is one of billions of stars that swirl through space in an enormous gathering known as a galaxy.



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