



What is a nebula?

- A) The clouds in the sky.
- B) The topmost layer of our atmosphere.
- C) A collection of stars.
- D) A cloud of dust and gas in space.

WELL DONE!

Open Discussion:

What do you know about the clouds in the sky?





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A **nebula** is a cloud of dust and gas in space. (Nebula is the Latin word for cloud. More than one nebula are called **nebulae**.) The clouds can be quite large, spreading across numerous light years. The gas in these clouds is **hydrogen**. Nebulae are interesting because they are the birthplace of stars. Stars are created in some nebula, and stars die in others.



(touch the image to enlarge)

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Nebulas and their Types

NGC 1999 Nebula

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Type: Reflection Nebula

Constellation: Orion

Distance: 1,500 light years

Discovered: 18th Century by Sir William Herschel and his sister Caroline

Objects: A dust-filled nebula with a hole of empty space, it reflects the light from the nearby star, V380 Orionis (seen in the image).

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