











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





Open Discussion:

What do you know about the clouds in the sky?





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.

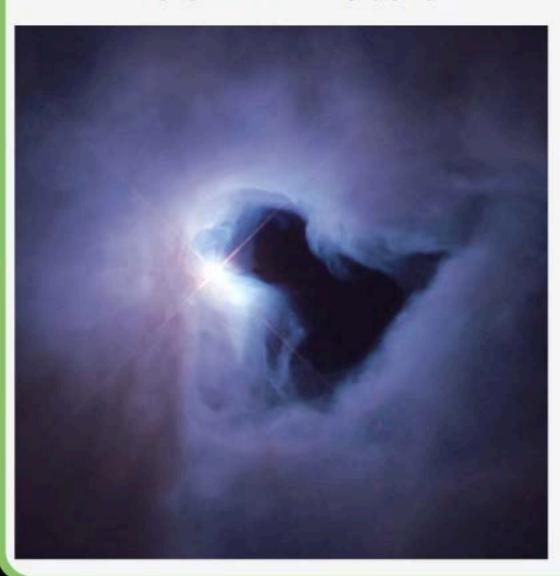


(touch the image to enlarge)

Nebulas and their Types

NGC 1999 Nebula

Close X



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).