

Nebula Jars

CAMBRIDGE
SCIENCE
CENTRE

The James Webb Telescope will peer through Nebula dust clouds to see stars and planets forming. Make your own Nebula in a jar with this activity.



What you'll need

- A clean jar with a lid
- Poster paint (at least two colours)
- Cotton wool balls
- Water
- Glitter
- Pencil

Nebulas are massive clouds of dust and gas in space. Some come from the dust and gas from the explosion of a dying star. Others are where new stars form and are sometimes called 'star nurseries'!

What to do

1. Fill a third of the jar with water.
2. Add a good squeeze of paint, put the lid on the jar and shake to mix the paint and water. The paint will make the water cloudy like the gases in a nebula.
3. Add glitter to the water and paint solution. These are the stars that have formed inside your nebula.
4. Pull and stretch out the cotton balls so that they look like clouds. The cotton wool is the clouds of dust in your nebula. Add them to the water and press down with a pencil.
5. Fill another third of the jar with water and add a good squeeze of another coloured paint. Repeat steps 2-4 using the pencil to mix in the paint instead of shaking.
6. Fill the final third with water and repeat steps 2-4 again.