

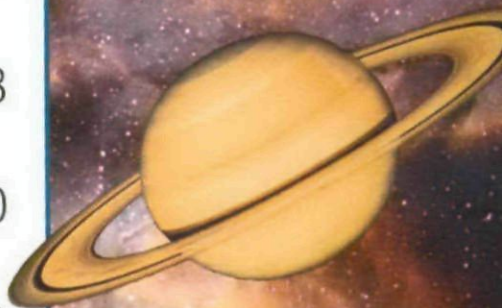
Science Matters

EXPLORING SPACE



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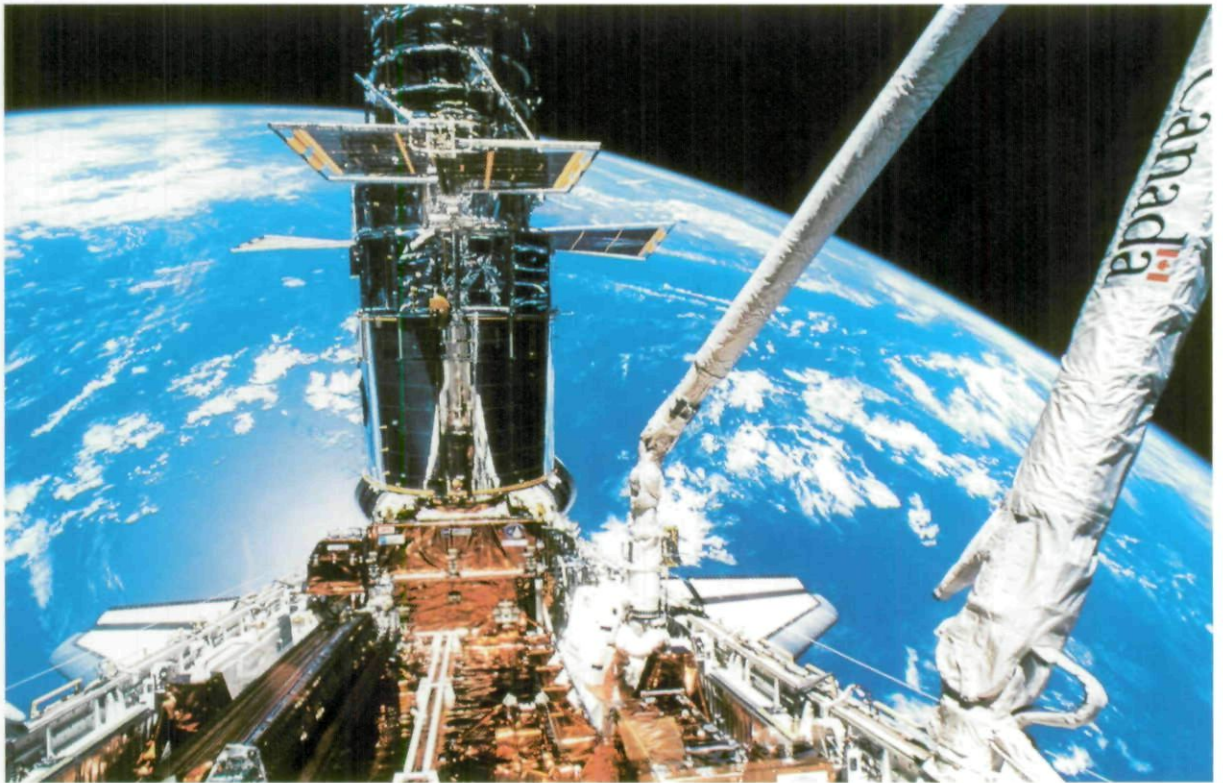
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Studying Space

Humans have been exploring their world for thousands of years. People love to discover and learn about new places. Some of today's explorers are making exciting new discoveries in space.

Many objects are found in the **universe**. These include **asteroids**, planets, moons, comets, and stars. Astronomers are scientists who study the objects in space. People who travel to space to learn about it are called astronauts.



- The *Hubble Space Telescope* circles Earth. It has three cameras that photograph objects in space.

Space Facts

Did you know that the universe is believed to be 15 billion years old? Read on to learn more interesting facts about space.

- There are nine planets in our **solar system**. They are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.
- Stars are made of burning gases. They produce their own light, and exist in large groups known as galaxies.
- The Sun is a star.
- Many astronauts work at NASA. "NASA" stands for National **Aeronautics** and Space Administration.
- Humans explore space using telescopes, rockets, and **space probes**.
- Some animals have been sent to space for research purposes. Animals in space have included mice, rats, monkeys, dogs, and fish.