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# THE UNIVERSE

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## The universe

The universe is made up of galaxies separated from each other by huge empty spaces.

**Galaxies** are clusters of billions of stars.

In galaxies there are also **nebulas**, which are huge clouds of gas and dust.

The Sun is a star of our galaxy: the **Milky Way**. The Sun is our star.

The stars shine and emit light and heat because their interior is at a very high temperature.

## Origin and evolution of the universe

A large explosion of compressed matter originated the universe. It is called the **Big Bang**.

The universe expands. Galaxies separate from each other.

## Distances in the universe

An **astronomical unit (AU)** is used to express distances within the Solar System.

A **light year** is used to measure distances of objects outside the Solar System.