

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Exposing new views of a star's life cycle

Galaxy Evolution Explorer

GALEX

This GALEX ultraviolet image shows the planetary nebula NGC 7293, also known as the Helix Nebula. It is the nearest example of what happens to a star, like our own Sun, as it approaches the end of its life, when it runs out of fuel, expels gas outward, and evolves into a much hotter, smaller, and denser white dwarf star.

www.nasa.gov