

Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw



I have never been one to watch the stars and find constellations. I could pick out the Big and Little Dippers, find the North Star and a couple of planets but that was about it. One night my neighbor knocked on my door and invited me outside to see the International Space Station pass overhead on its earthly orbit. On another evening, he taught me how to see the moons around Jupiter with my binoculars. Then I turned them on the full moon and saw the mountains and craters in a clarity I had never dreamed of before. I didn't know how much I could see with ordinary binoculars. Now I am a fan of the sky and I am fascinated by what astronomers are learning about the origin of the universe through telescopes.

The best of these, the Hubble Space Telescope, has been called one of the greatest scientific instruments of all time. Launched on April 24, 1990, the Hubble orbits the earth once every 97 minutes taking pictures of deep space. The information the Hubble has returned to scientists on earth each week is enough to fill a 3,600-foot-long bookshelf. That is the length of ten football fields put together end to end!

In Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw, author Elaine Scott covers the history of telescopes with a focus on the Hubble Telescope and the space shuttle missions that have serviced it. The book is filled with stunning photographs of nebulae, supernova explosions, dark matter, and galaxies that existed long before Earth was formed. You can find more amazing photos at the HubbleSite News Center.

This book is perfect for readers in grade 5 and up.

Posted by Mary F. on July 1, 2011

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