

Mission

The Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX) is a Space Ultraviolet Small Explorer mission that will map the global history and probe the causes of star formation over the redshift range $0 < z < 2$, 80% of the life of the Universe, the period over which galaxies have evolved dramatically, and the time that most stars, elements, and galaxy disks had their origins.

GALEX will:

- measure the star formation history of the universe over $0 < z < 2$,
- provide the critical, missing survey of the $z=0$ UV universe, bridge the chasm between the $z=0$ and redshifted UV universe explored by the Hubble Deep Field and NGST,
- provide the framework and targets for numerous high-priority (HST, FUSE, AXAF, and SIRTf) investigations.

Keep track of the GALEX mission at <http://www.srl.caltech.edu/galex/index.html>



Education & Public Outreach

A multifaceted outreach program is underway for GALEX. The program goals include:

- providing timely and engaging information to the media, public, and the educational and scientific communities regarding GALEX accomplishments and discoveries,
- providing easy public access to GALEX information, data and results; establishing metrics to ascertain success of individual informational tactics,
- GALEX team members engaging in outreach activities,
- fostering development of a coordinated outreach effort between science and technology,
- allowing members of academia, industry, and government quick access to program and project staff and technology developers,
- informing the public and educational community about the relevance of gaining further knowledge on the structure and origins of the Universe to their lives, and the scientific knowledge the mission will make possible.

Make a Galactic Mobile

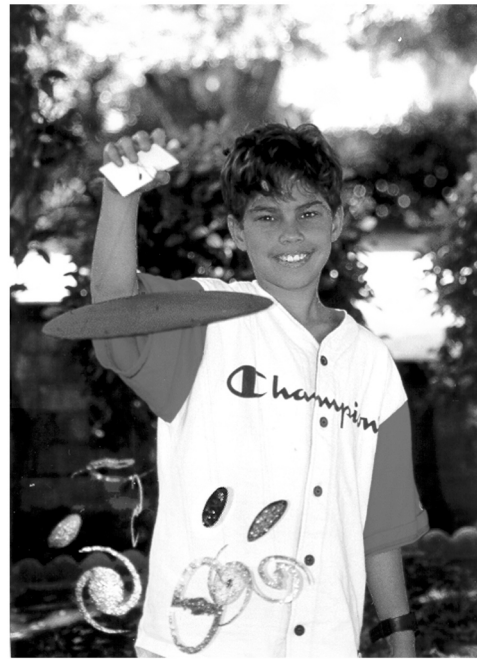
A galaxy is a grouping of stars. All but a few stars in the universe live in galaxies. Our Sun is just one of at least 200 billion stars in our own Milky Way Galaxy.

With our best telescopes, we can look deep into space and see billions of galaxies. Galaxies come in all different shapes. Some are spiral shaped like our own Milky Way. Some are like a circle or a flattened circle. Others seem to have no particular shape at all.

Make your own collection of beautiful galaxies. Suspend them on a mobile so they turn and sparkle in the wind. Go to The Space Place to make your Galactic Mobile at http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/galex_make1.htm.

How did the galaxies get to be such a variety of shapes? We don't know. But with the Galaxy Evolution Explorer, or GALEX, we will learn much more about stars and galaxies.

GALEX is a spacecraft that will be launched into orbit around Earth in January 2002. It will use its advanced instruments to peer outward, deep into the universe. It will collect data that will help astronomers piece together the story of how stars



http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/galex_make1.htm