

CHANDRA

<http://chandra.harvard.edu/>

Launched:
July 23 1999

Chandra X-ray Observatory

Kit Items

Coloring Book, Lithos, CD, multi-wavelength postcard

Mission

The Chandra X-Ray Mission is designed to observe extremely energetic, turbulent regions of space where matter has temperatures of millions of degrees Celsius and radiates its light energy as X-rays. Although it is difficult to focus X-rays, Chandra has the sharpest X-ray focus of any satellite ever built. Chandra observes “hot” areas of the Universe such as the remnants of exploded stars, young stars in active star-forming regions, neutron star powerhouses, matter swirling toward black holes, the supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies, and the dynamics of vast clouds of hot gas in clusters of galaxies.

Education and Public Outreach Program

Our Education and Public Outreach program has been developed to share Chandra’s exciting discoveries with broad segments of the general public, and to utilize those discoveries in materials and resources for both formal and informal learning. We maintain an extensive public web site that provides access to the latest Chandra images, extensive background materials, interactive and informal learning activities, and a section of formal, classroom ready activities. On-line request forms allow educators to order posters, bookmarks, CD-ROMs, and other Chandra materials. Links are provided to other resources for videos and slide sets. We provide on-line information about Chandra-sponsored in-service and workshop opportunities.

EPO site: <http://chandra.harvard.edu/>

Seeing and Exploring the Universe

A major purpose of the Chandra mission is to take images and spectra of celestial X-rays with enough sharpness to distinguish previously unseen individual sources, as well as details of the X-ray sources that will give scientists information about their fundamental physical processes. In its first two years of operations, Chandra has discovered thousands of new X-ray sources, including classes of previously unknown black holes, and taken precise spectra that trace the distribution of elements flung out of exploded stars. Combined with data in different wavelengths from other space and ground-based missions, Chandra’s discoveries are helping to give scientists their most complete picture yet of our Universe.

