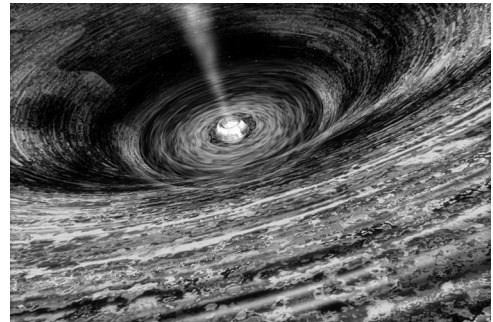


*Image courtesy NRAO/AUI*

NASA scientists have strived for decades to understand the nature of the Universe, and to broaden our senses enough to hear what the Universe is telling us. NASA, with the help of space agencies from several other nations, is assembling a fleet of spacecraft to expand our horizons. This fleet is a part of the NASA theme called “Structure and Evolution of the Universe”, or SEU. The purpose of the SEU theme is to answer some of the broadest and most basic questions in astronomy, and perhaps all of science. What is the structure and ultimate fate of the Universe? How are the cycles of matter and energy powered? What happens at the ultimate limits of gravity and energy?

The telescopes in the fleet see and explore the Universe in different ways, each trying to tease out the answers to these questions. Most of these SEU missions are sensitive to different parts of the electromagnetic radiation, while other missions observe cosmic rays or gravitational waves. No matter what they detect, or how they detect it, scientists hope that these missions will ultimately give them insight into what makes the Universe tick.

One of NASA’s most important directives is that each mission devotes time and funding to educating the public about science. To further this effort, the missions in the SEU theme have put together this kit of educational materials, which includes posters, CDs, lithographs of actual astronomical observations and more. This kit will introduce you to the basic science used in each mission, and will also help you see and explore the Universe in different ways on your own.



*Image courtesy NASA/CXC/SAO*

A clickable list of all the hyperlinks in this book can be found at:  
[http://universe.sonoma.edu/materials/2002/mission\\_links.html](http://universe.sonoma.edu/materials/2002/mission_links.html)