

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about science...

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope was launched April 24, 1990, on the space shuttle Discovery from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Hubble's launch and deployment in April 1990 marked the most significant advance in astronomy since Galileo's telescope.

- Hubble has made more than 1.3 million observations since its mission began in 1990. Astronomers have been able to publish more than 14,000 scientific papers using data transmitted by Hubble, making it one of the most productive scientific instruments ever created!
- The telescope is set to retire in the next few years after more than 25 years photographing and observing distant stars and galaxies, as well as planets in our own solar system! Hubble does not travel to stars, planets or galaxies. It takes pictures of them as it whirls around Earth at about 17,000 mph.
- Hubble weighed about 24,000 pounds at launch and currently weighs about 27,000 pounds following the final servicing mission in 2009 – on the order of two full-grown African elephants.
- Outside the haze of our atmosphere, Hubble can see astronomical objects with an angular size of 0.05 arc seconds, which is like seeing a pair of fireflies in Tokyo from your home in Maryland.

