Nebula in a bottle
Creating stellar nurseries

Activity – Before visiting the Observatory

Material List:
- Glass jar with a lid
- Cotton Wool
- Glitter
- Colored water
- Cups for mixing the colors
- Pipette

Outline
In this activity, you will gain knowledge of the observable universe and the spectacular sights to be discovered when observing it!

You get to unleash your creativity with creating nebulae, remnants of stars and areas where new stars are born! You get to see that the Universe can come in a variety of colors, structures and shapes.

Procedure:
- Put a small amount of cotton wall in the bottom of your glass jar.
- Use the cups to mix the colored water to get your desired color.
- Use the pipette to wet the cotton wool. You want it to be just wet enough for the color to show. If you make it too wet, the dye will leak into your next layer.
- You can also add glitter on top of the layer of cotton wool if you want to.
- Put a new layer of cotton wool on top of what you have just dyed. Find a new color for this layer.
- Repeat the process of using the pipette and the water to dye your layer of cotton wool.
- Repeat for as many times as you’d like. Create at least three different layers.
Images for inspiration:

The online observatory collaboration consists of the following partners:
Baldone Observatory, Brorfelde Observatory, Cardiff University, Harestua Solar Observatory, Helsinki Observatory