



Veil Nebula

The bright, wispy gas lanes of the Veil Nebula drape across this image. About 8,000 years ago, a star 20 times more massive than our Sun exploded, sending out waves of debris that have since coalesced into the filamentary collection seen here. As the debris shot across the sky at speeds near 1 million miles per hour, it collided with a wall of cooler and denser interstellar gas, creating so much heat that it emitted light, a process called “shock heating.”

In this image, the color red corresponds to the element hydrogen, green to sulfur, and blue to oxygen. The Veil Nebula is 110 light-years across and located 2,100 light-years from Earth in the constellation Cygnus, the Swan. This image only captures two light-years of the enormous nebula.

Hubble Space Telescope – Wide Field Camera 3
NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)