National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Exposing new views of a star's life cycle

This GALEX ultraviolet image shows the planetary nebula NGC 7293, also known as the Helix Nebula. It is the nearest example of what happens to a star, like our own Sun, as it approaches the end of its life, when it runs out of fuel, expels gas outward, and evolves into a much hotter, smaller, and denser white dwarf star.

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GALEX Galaxy Evolution Explorer