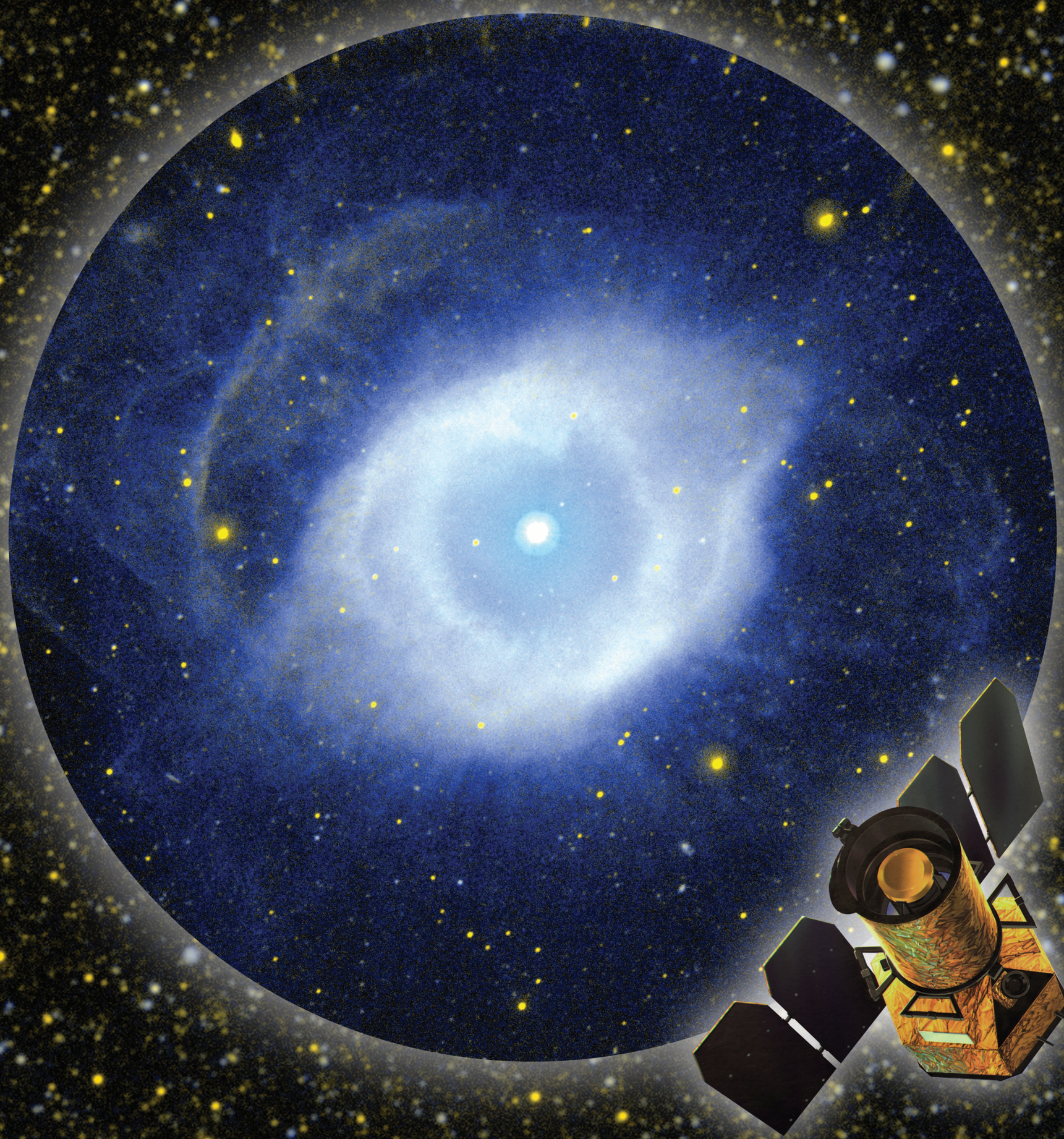
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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.

www.nasa.gov

JPL 400-1279 8/06
EW-2006-07-026-JPL

GALEX

Galaxy Evolution Explorer