



Plate 1: The Orion Nebula. Above is a mosaic image of the Orion Nebula, a stellar nursery, as seen by the Hubble Space Telescope in 1995. The Orion Nebula is 1,500 light years away and the small portion shown is 2.5 light years across. (One light year is 9.5 trillion km.) The Orion Nebula is one of many giant clouds of gas and dust in our galaxy in which stars are currently forming.
Image Credit: C.R. O'Dell/Rice University; NASA