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K2.1.2 What Lives in the Universe?

What beautiful things live in the universe? Stars are the first thing that come to mind. Stars are the small white dots that sparkle in the night sky. But they are actually huge balls of hot rock. The Sun we see every day is also a star. Countless stars twinkling in the night sky are hot and bright just like the Sun. They only seem tiny because they are far away.

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5201 Great America Pkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054
Website : www.gosedusoft.com
E-Mail : davidann819@gmail.com

Written by David Ann

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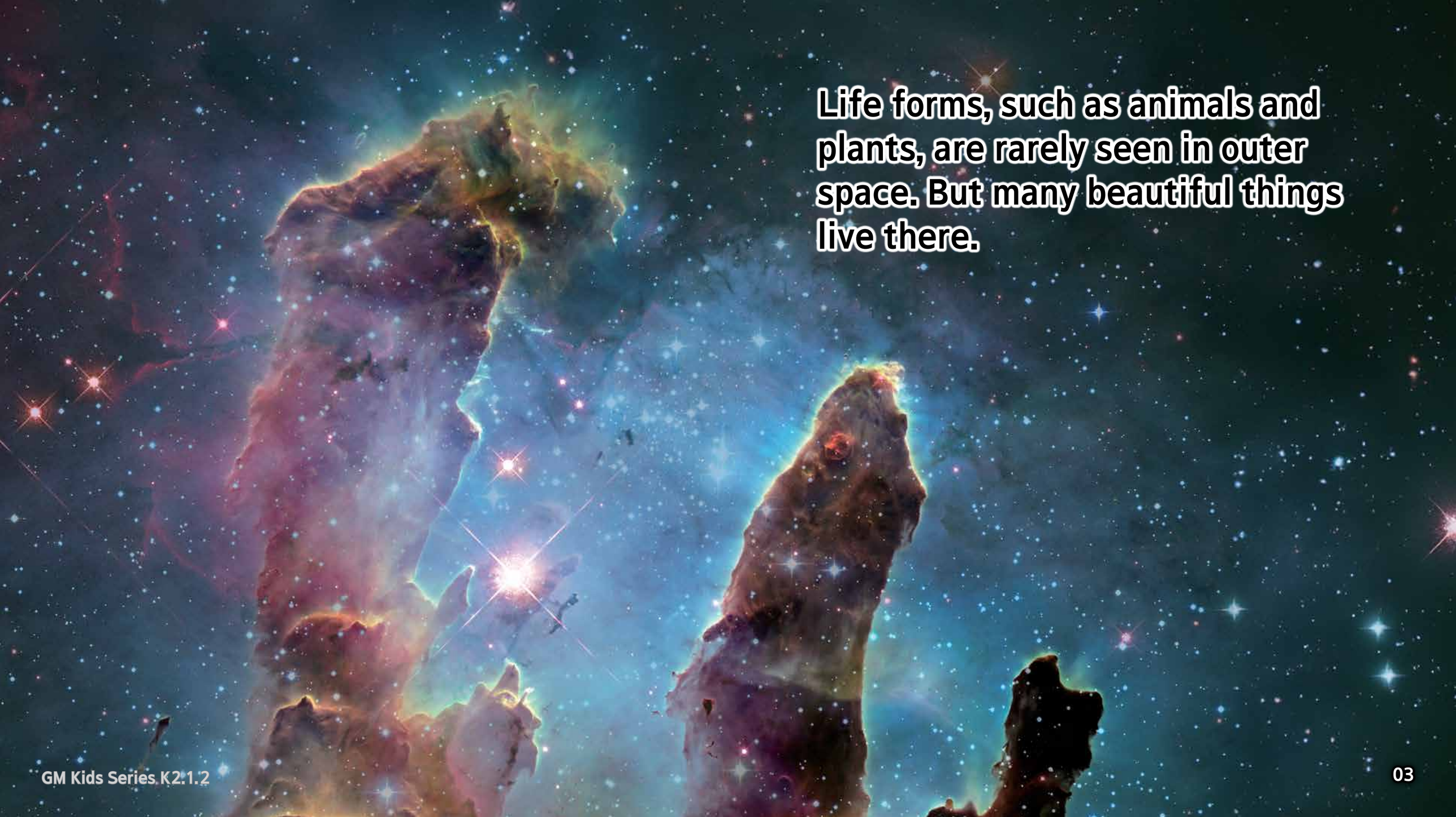
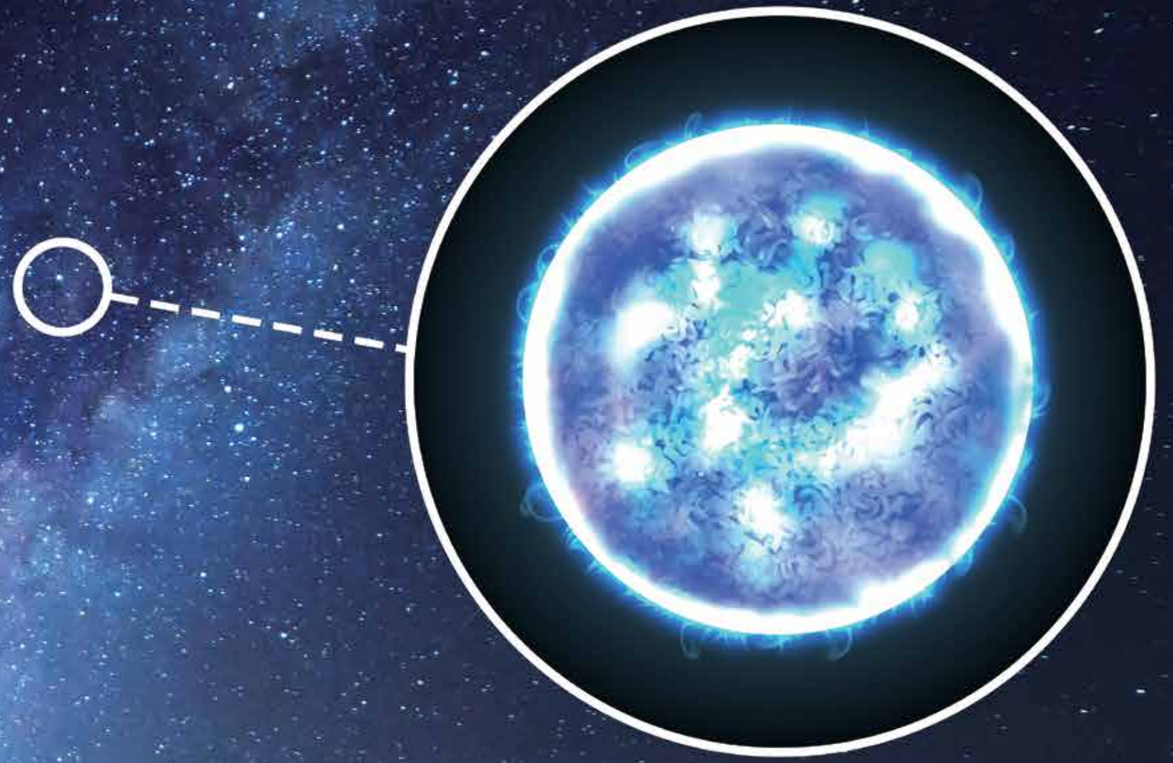


Life forms, such as animals and plants, are rarely seen in outer space. But many beautiful things live there.

So, what beautiful things live in the universe?

Stars are the first to come to mind.
Stars are the small white dots that sparkle in the night sky.



But they are actually huge balls of hot rock.

The Sun we see every day is also a star.

Countless stars twinkling in the night sky are hot and bright just like the Sun. They only seem tiny because they are far away.

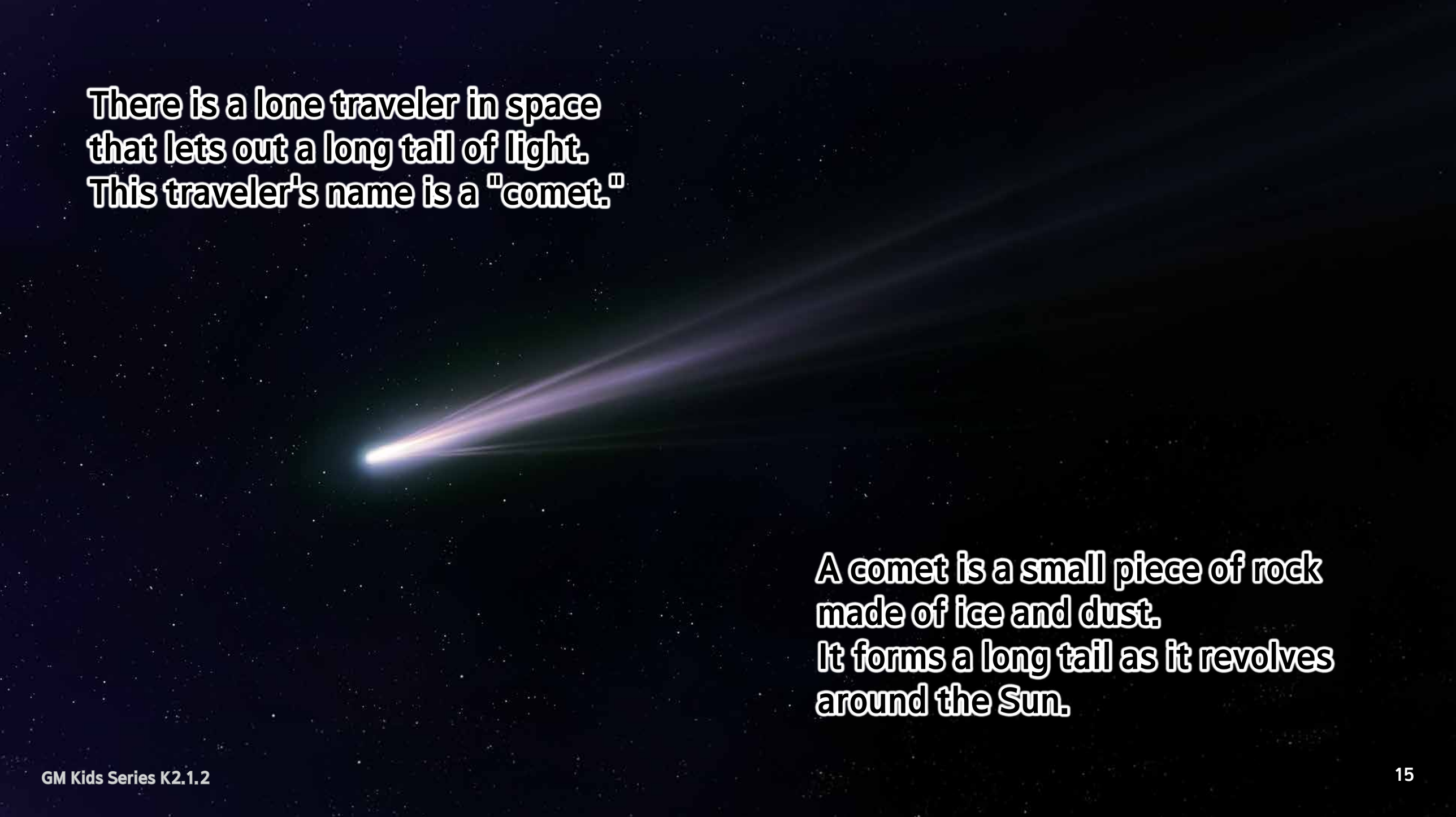
A planet is a celestial object that orbits a star.

Our solar system has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Some celestial objects orbit planets, like the moon that orbits the Earth.

We call these celestial objects satellites. People have also launched man-made satellites into space.

There is a lone traveler in space
that lets out a long tail of light.
This traveler's name is a "comet."



A comet is a small piece of rock
made of ice and dust.
It forms a long tail as it revolves
around the Sun.

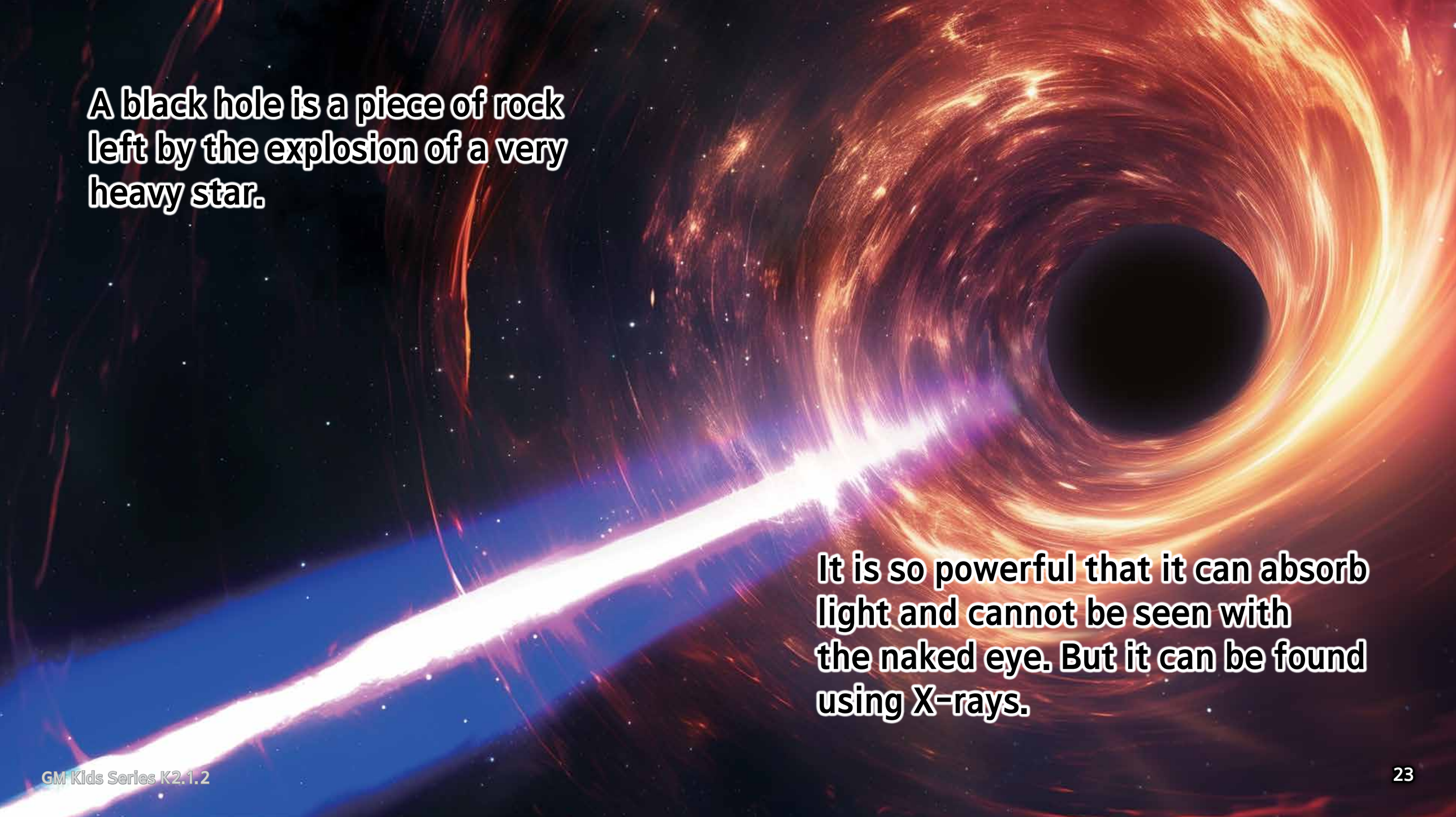
Sometimes when we look up at the night sky, we can see something like a fast, twinkling star.
This is a meteor.
A meteor is a phenomenon that occurs when small rocks or dust from space enter the Earth's atmosphere.

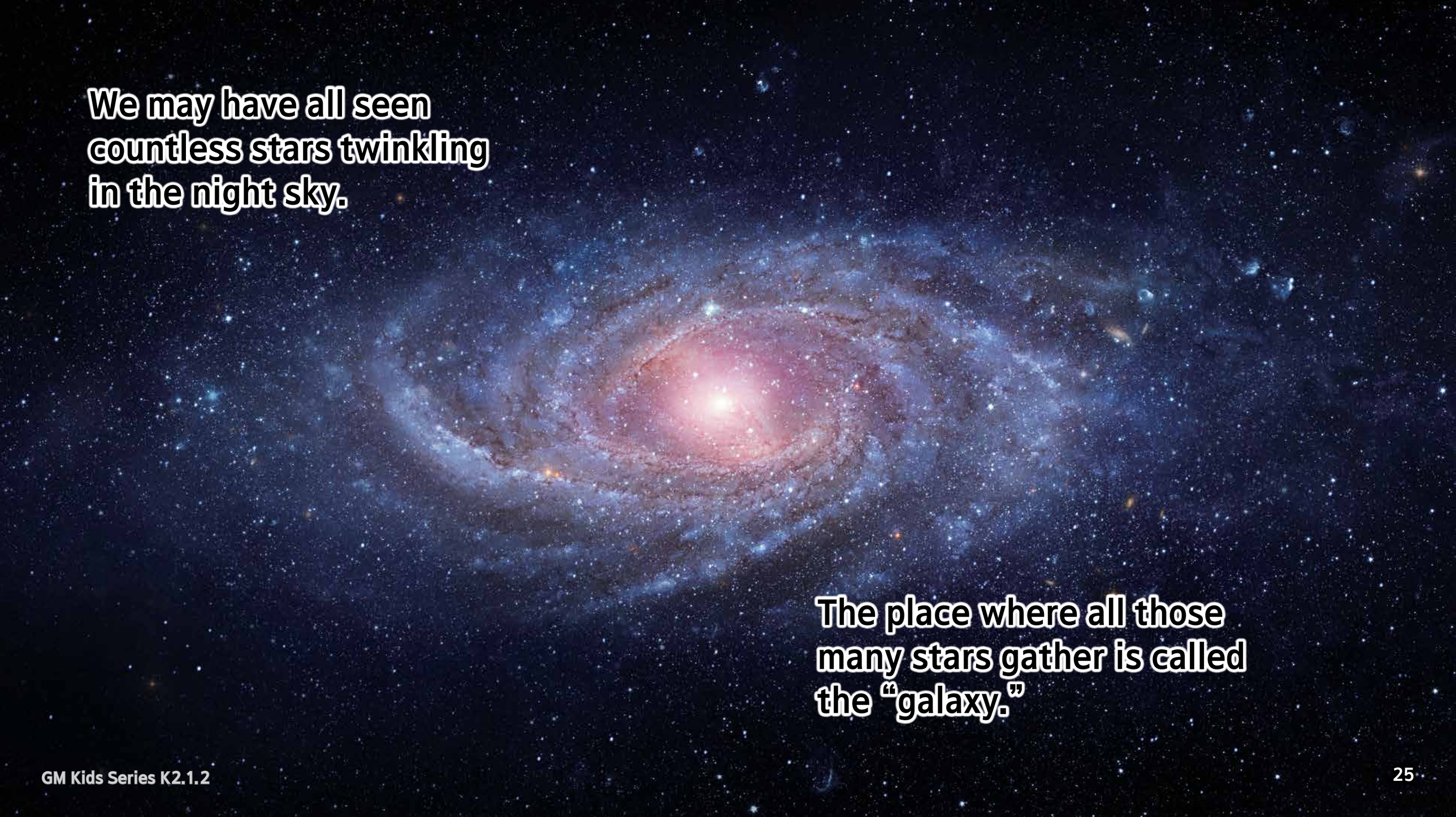
We can see meteors like shooting stars in the night sky.

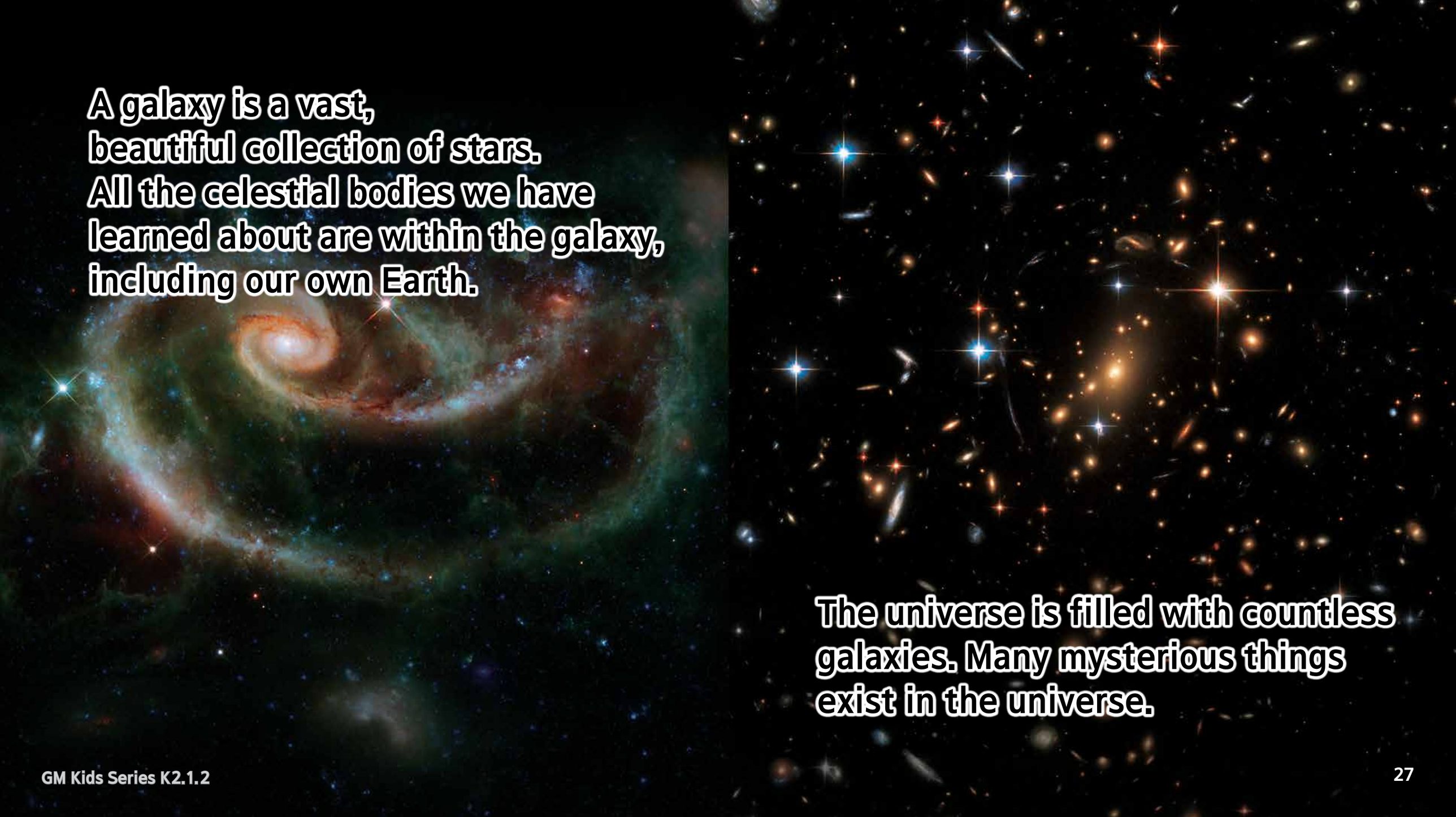
A meteor that reaches the ground before completely burning up is called a "meteorite."

In space, there are many nebulae made up of gas and dust.

Even though they are invisible to our naked eyes, we can easily see them with an astronomical telescope.


A black hole is a piece of rock left by the explosion of a very heavy star.
It is so powerful that it can absorb light and cannot be seen with the naked eye. But it can be found using X-rays.


We may have all seen
countless stars twinkling
in the night sky.
The place where all those
many stars gather is called
the “galaxy.”



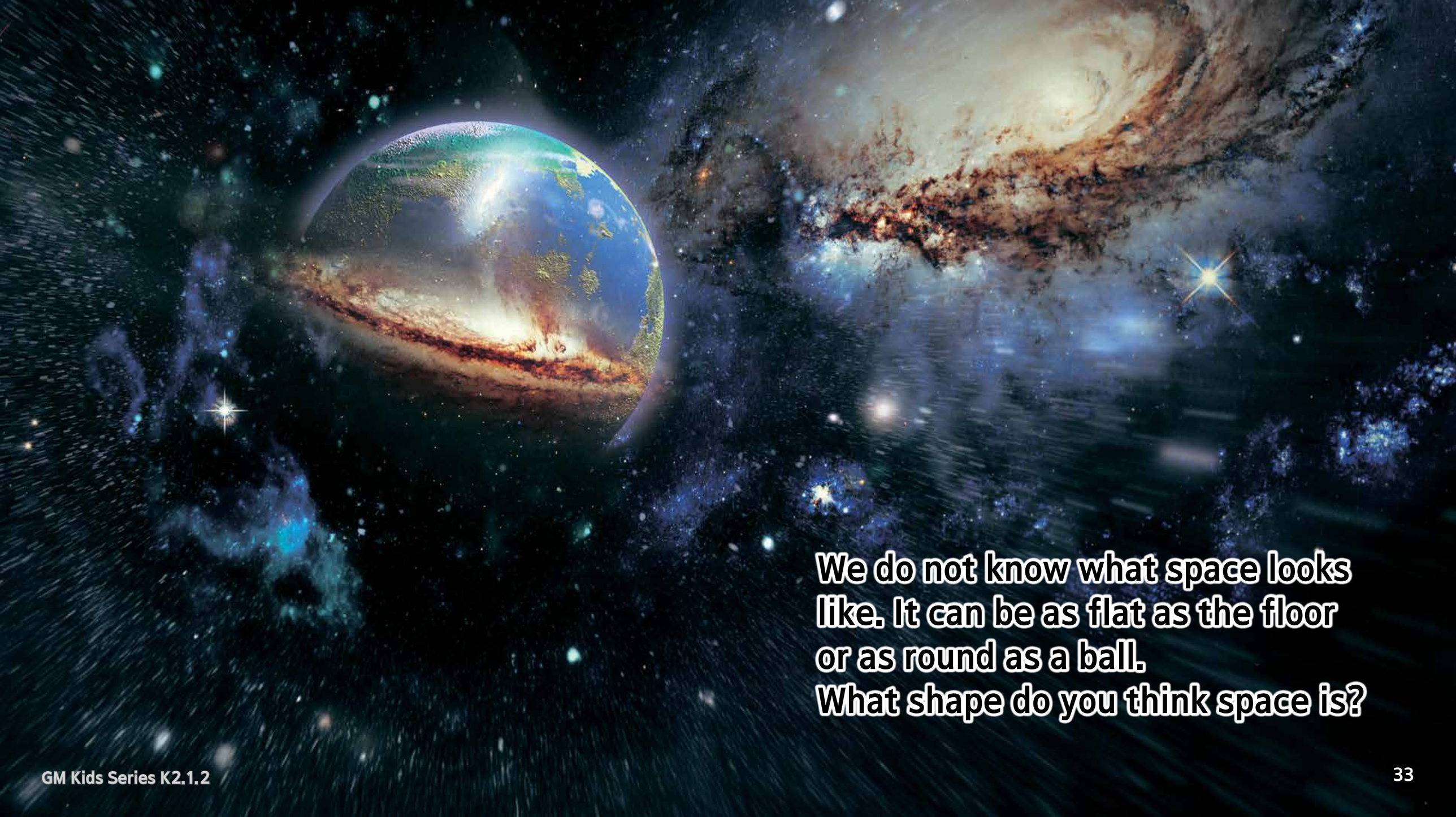
A galaxy is a vast,
beautiful collection of stars.
All the celestial bodies we have
learned about are within the galaxy,
including our own Earth.

The universe is filled with countless
galaxies. Many mysterious things
exist in the universe.

Outer space, or just space, refers to everywhere outside the Earth's atmosphere.

The Earth is not considered outer space because a layer of air protects it.

Things can float in space since there is almost no gravity. People cannot breathe because there is no air, so they must wear spacesuits. The universe is too vast to truly know where it ends. It is beyond our imagination.



We do not know what space looks like. It can be as flat as the floor or as round as a ball.
What shape do you think space is?