



Chandra Science Highlight

Pillars of Creations in the Eagle Nebula (M16)

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS image.

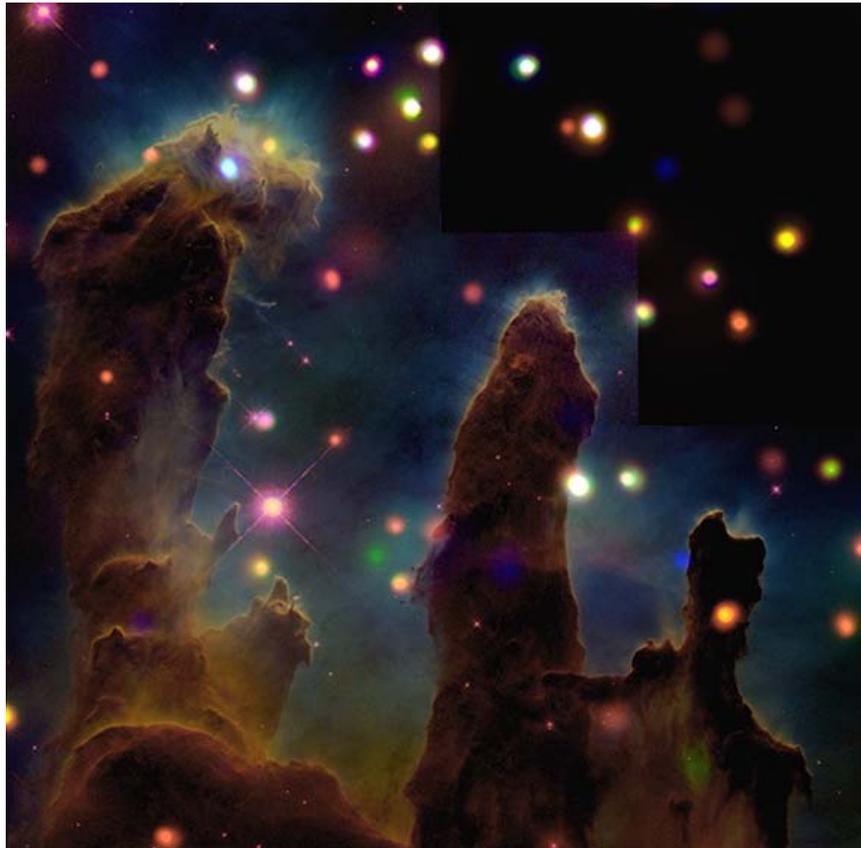


Image is 2.5 arc minutes across.

This image of the “Pillars of Creation” in the central region of the Eagle Nebula combines a Chandra X-ray image with a Hubble Space Telescope image. The Chandra data shows bright X-ray sources in this field, most of which are young stars. In this image, red, green, and blue represent low, medium, and high energy X-rays.

- Very few X-ray sources are found in the Pillars, suggesting that the Eagle Nebula may be past its star-forming prime.
- The blue source near the top of the pillar on the left is a young star about 5 times as massive as the sun.
- Distance to the Eagle Nebula: about 7,000 light years.

REFERENCES: J. Linsky et al. (2007), *Astrophys. J.*, 654.347

CREDIT: X-Ray: NASA/CXC/U.Colorado/Linsky et al.;

Optical: NASA/ESA/STScI/ASU/J.Hester & P.Scowen