

TAKE A TRIP AROUND THE TRIANGLE!

The Search for Exoplanets

The centuries-old quest for other worlds like our Earth has been reignited by the discovery of hundreds of planets orbiting other stars, called *exoplanets*. Scientists are just beginning to better understand the variety of planetary systems in our stellar neighborhood thanks to improved instruments and technology.

NASA's Kepler Mission, a space-based telescope, monitored more than 150,000 stars in a star field in the Summer Triangle for over four years. Scientists are searching for Earth-like exoplanets, especially those in the habitable zone of their stars where liquid water and possibly life might exist.

Kepler was designed to find exoplanets by looking for tiny dips in the brightness of a star when a planet crosses in front of it and blocks a little bit of the star's light — we say the planet *transits* the star.

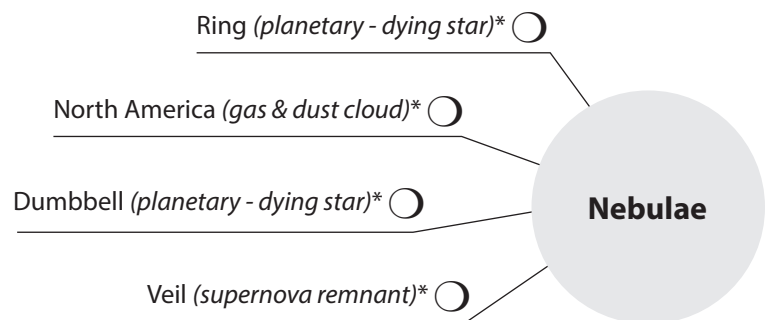
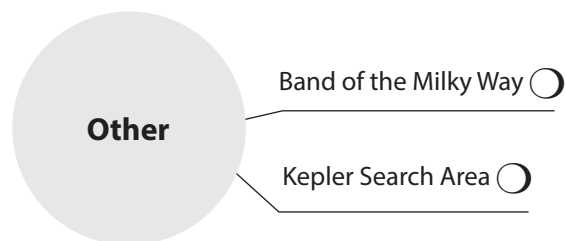
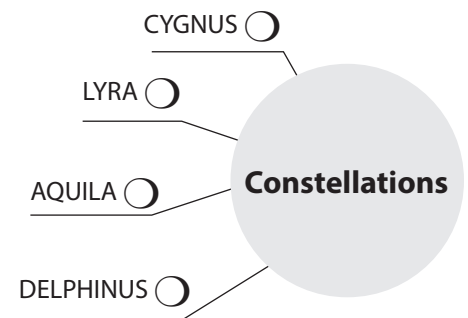
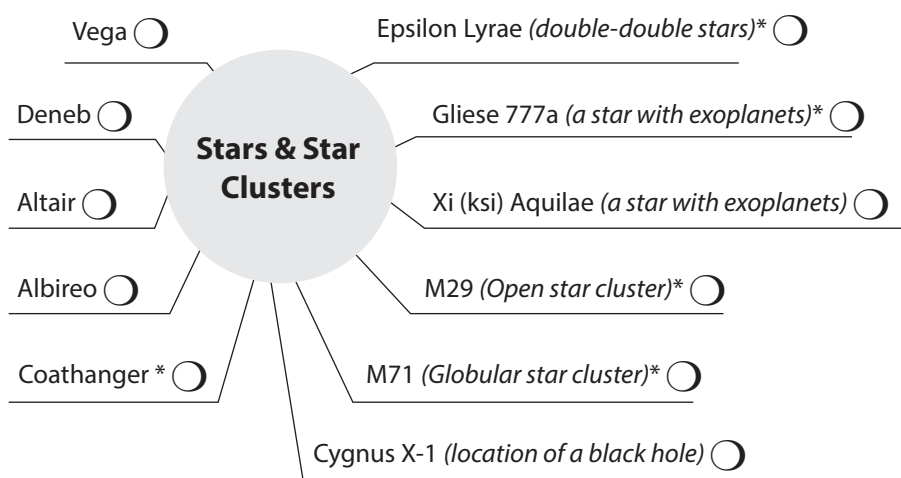
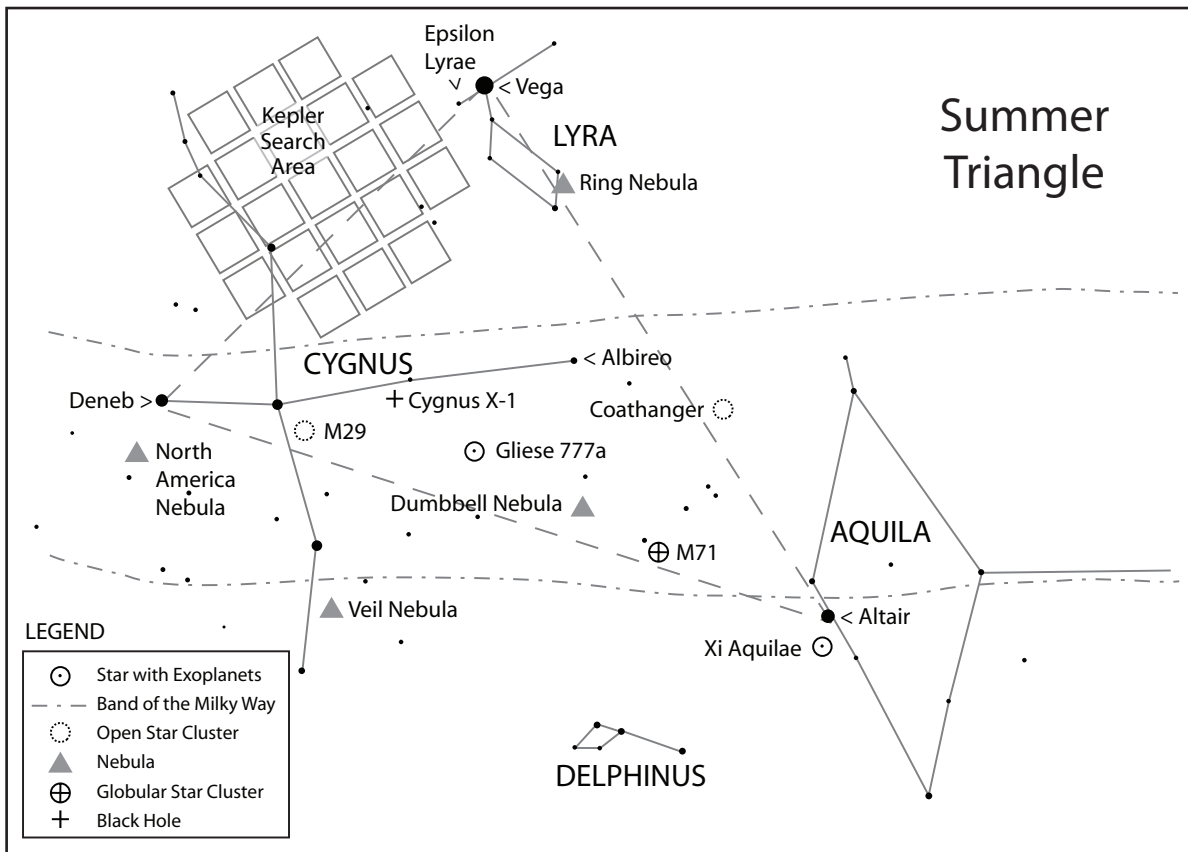
“... the ways by which men arrive at knowledge of the celestial things are hardly less wonderful than the nature of these things themselves”
— Johannes Kepler



For more information on NASA's Kepler Mission to search for Earth-size planets:

<http://Kepler.NASA.gov>

WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THE TRIANGLE?



The area of the sky that Kepler monitored is just a little larger than your fist held at arm's length.

* Visible in the telescope or binoculars (depending on sky conditions)