0120

Owl Cluster

Quick Facts:

Distance: 8000 Light-years.

Size: Approx 30 Light-years.

Constellation: Cassiopeia.

The eyes have it with 2 naked-eye foreground stars giving this group its name, though a telescope is needed for the best view. Also called NGC 457, ET Cluster. Very blue stars make up the cluster, only 20 million years old. The bright red star is also a foreground object.

Find it: Look 2 degrees SSW of Gamma Cassiopeiae, the middle star in that constellation's W. GOTO: NGC.

Image by Henryk Kowalewski. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.