0718

Thor's Helmet

Quick Facts:

Distance: 15,000 light-years **Size: 30 light-years**

Constellation: Canis Major

An interaction of ionized gas from a pre-supernova with a giant molecular cloud. As a massive star evolves, it expands and throws off its outer layers, enriched in elements formed by fusion. The otherwise spherical shell is distorted to resemble a Viking's headgear by surrounding unionized gas and dust. Also called NGC 2359.

Find it: Sweep 5 degrees east of 4th magnitude Theta CMa (nose of the Big Dog) and 1 deg south. GOTO: NGC.

Image by NASA/Hubble/ESA. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.