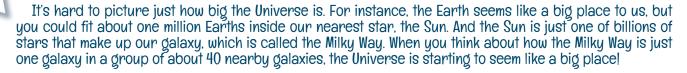






Our Universe is big, beautiful... and mostly invisible!





This new picture shows a different group of galaxies that is much bigger than ours, which is called Pandora's Cluster. The picture shows such a big part of the Universe that each galaxy only looks like a little white scratch on the photo! The galaxies are only a tiny part of what is really inside Pandora's Cluster. It is also made up of hot gas (shown in pink in the photo) and lots of strange stuff that doesn't give off any light at all – it is invisible to us! Astronomers call this invisible stuff 'dark matter'.

Although dark matter is invisible, astronomers can work out where it is in space from the effect that it has on the things around it – like seeing a sofa cushion being pushed down by an invisible man. In this picture, anywhere containing matter – both visible and invisible stuff – has been coloured in blue by astronomers. Can you spot some blue regions that don't contain any galaxies? That's dark matter!

Astronomers still have a lot to learn about dark matter, which is why new photos like this one are so important.



Dark matter is found all over the Universe. Astronomers think there is four times as much dark matter in the Universe than the normal matter that we can see!







