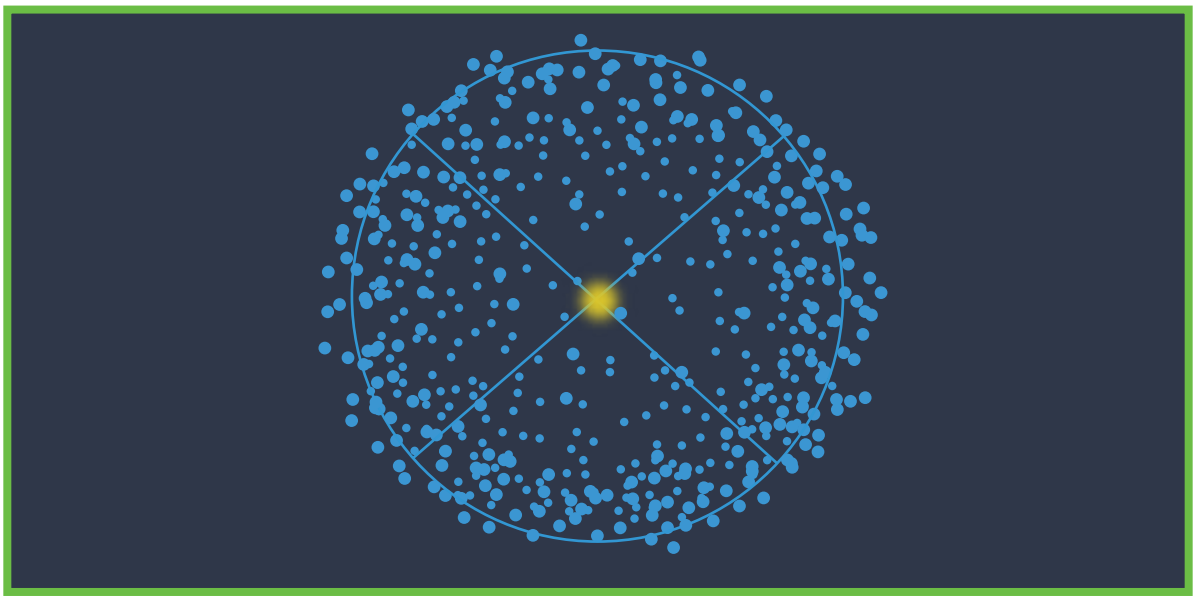
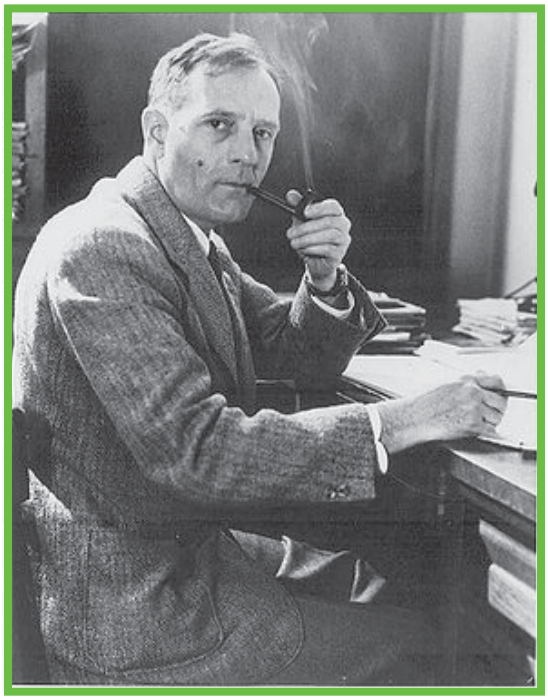
The Big Bang Theory

The Big Bang theory is the theory that our universe began from an expansion event.



An illustration of how the Big Bang is suggested to look.

According to the theory, our universe was previously very hot and dense. The "Big Bang" caused a rapid expansion of this dense matter. This expansion turned the hot, dense universe into the spread out, cool place that we are now familiar with.



Edwin Hubble

The Big Bang was not actually an explosion, as the name seems to suggest. Instead, the Big Bang was simply a very rapid expansion of particles through space. It is worth noting that while widely accepted, the Big Bang theory is still a work-in-progress. What existed before the Big Bang and what exactly caused the Big Bang have not been fully agreed upon. Scientists estimate that the Big Bang occured about 13 billion years ago. The universe has not stopped expanding since the Big Bang.

In 1929, Edwin Hubble observed that far off galaxies were increasing in distance from our own. Since the universe is always expanding, it is always in a constant state of change.

Reading Response

Even though a theory is just an idea, or an educated guess, scientists and astronomers accept the Big Bang theory because it helps to explain many other things that have been found in the universe. Do you agree with this theory? Why or why not? What is your theory of how our universe was created?