DARK-MATTER.GALAXIES.IM

# Can we see it?

*Official pages say dark matter is invisible — and that this is not a problem of colour.*

"Dark matter is the invisible glue that holds the universe together." It "doesn't absorb, reflect, or emit any light," but "takes up space and it holds mass." That is how, official pages say, we can study it.

| The official story | Official wording |
|---|---|
| **Not a colour** | "Dark matter is not a dark color. Rather, it's called 'dark' because it's invisible to us since it doesn't absorb, reflect, or emit any light." |
| **Not dark energy** | "They are not the same thing." Dark matter "holds galaxies together." Dark energy is "whatever is causing our universe to expand at an accelerating rate," and "isn't concentrated in galaxies or galaxy clusters." |
| **How we study it** | "It takes up space and it holds mass." Gravity can bend light from distant galaxies – gravitational lensing – and that is one official way to map where the mass must be. |

### A short quiz

1. What does NASA's Dark Matter page call dark matter?
2. Is dark matter a dark colour?
3. Is dark matter the same thing as dark energy?

**Answers.** The invisible glue that holds the universe together. No – it is called dark because it is invisible. No – official pages say they are not the same thing.

Wording from NASA Science, Dark Matter, and NASA Science, Hubble Dark Matter, checked 18 November 2026. dark-matter.galaxies.im is independent of NASA and ESA. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.