

ASTRONOMY IN AFRICA

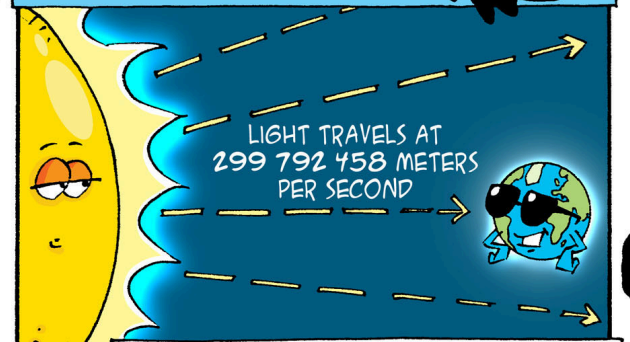
I WISH THERE WAS A WAY I COULD LOOK BACK IN TIME TO SEE WHAT THINGS WERE LIKE THEN.



ACTUALLY, THERE IS A WAY YOU CAN.



EVEN THOUGH LIGHT TRAVELS *VERY* FAST IT STILL TAKES TIME TO TRAVEL ACROSS SPACE.



IF YOU LOOK AT THE SUN, WE'RE SEEING WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE *EIGHT* MINUTES AGO. THAT'S HOW LONG IT TOOK THE LIGHT TO GET TO EARTH.

IF YOU LOOK AT A VERY FAR AWAY GALAXY, YOU ARE SEEING WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE A *BILLION YEARS* AGO -- BECAUSE THAT'S HOW LONG IT HAS TAKEN FOR ITS LIGHT TO REACH US.



IF WE LOOK AT STARS THAT ARE FAR AWAY ENOUGH - WE CAN LOOK BACK TO WHAT HAPPENED JUST AFTER THE *BIG BANG 14 BILLION YEARS* AGO, WHEN THE UNIVERSE BEGAN.

THIS LIGHT IS CALLED THE *COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND* AND IS STUDIED USING TELESCOPES ON EARTH AND MOUNTED ON SATELLITES.

