

Space Image: Disappearing Act

March 23 2011

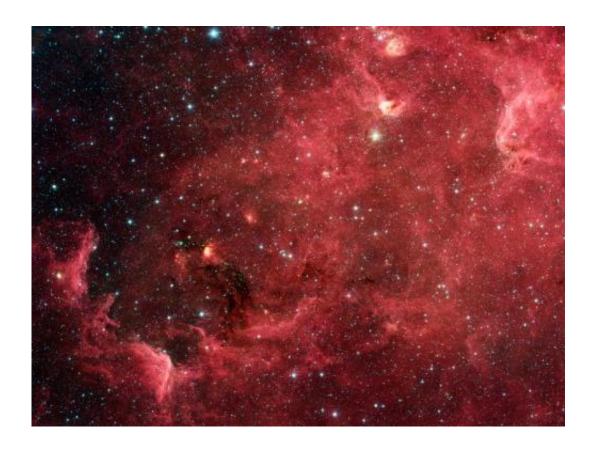


Image Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

(PhysOrg.com) -- This swirling landscape of stars is known as the North America Nebula. In visible light, the region resembles North America, but in this new infrared view from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, the continent disappears.

Where did the continent go? The reason you don't see it in Spitzer's view



is due, in part, to the fact that <u>infrared light</u> can penetrate dust whereas visible light cannot. Dusty, dark clouds in the visible image become transparent in Spitzer's view. In addition, Spitzer's infrared detectors pick up the glow of dusty cocoons enveloping baby stars.

Clusters of young stars (about one million years old) can be found throughout the image. Slightly older but still very <u>young stars</u> (about 3-5 million years) are also liberally scattered across the complex. Some areas of this nebula are still very thick with dust and a

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: Space Image: Disappearing Act (2011, March 23) retrieved 9 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2011-03-space-image.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.