



AUGUST 2023

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5	6	7	8 ◐	9	10	11
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STEPHAN'S QUINTET

The four galaxies within Stephan's Quintet are undergoing an intricate dance choreographed by gravity. (The fifth galaxy is an interloping galaxy at a different distance.) Webb's image of this object features never-seen-before details of the results of these interactions, including sweeping tails of gas and bursts of star formation. The Chandra data (light blue) of this system has uncovered a shock wave that heats gas to tens of millions of degrees, as one of the galaxies passes through the others at speeds of around 2 million miles per hour. This composite also includes data from NASA's now-retired Spitzer Space Telescope (yellow-green).

Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC; IR(Spitzer): NASA/JPL-Caltech; IR(JWST): NASA/ESA/CSA/STScI