

5.11: Hubble Space Telescope

Within weeks of launch, the HST showed serious problems with its primary mirror, which affected the precise focus of the telescope. A fix was designed and astronauts aboard Space Shuttle Endeavor in December 1993 captured and repaired the near-sighted telescope. The repair was somewhat simple though—to equip the HST with glasses. The fix worked and images returned from the Hubble Space Telescope have amazed and intrigued both astronomers and the general public ever since.



Release of the Hubble Space Telescope from Space Shuttle Endeavour, 1990Public Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



Blast-off of the space shuttle Endeavour and the Hubble Space Telescope, April 24, 1990Public Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.

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