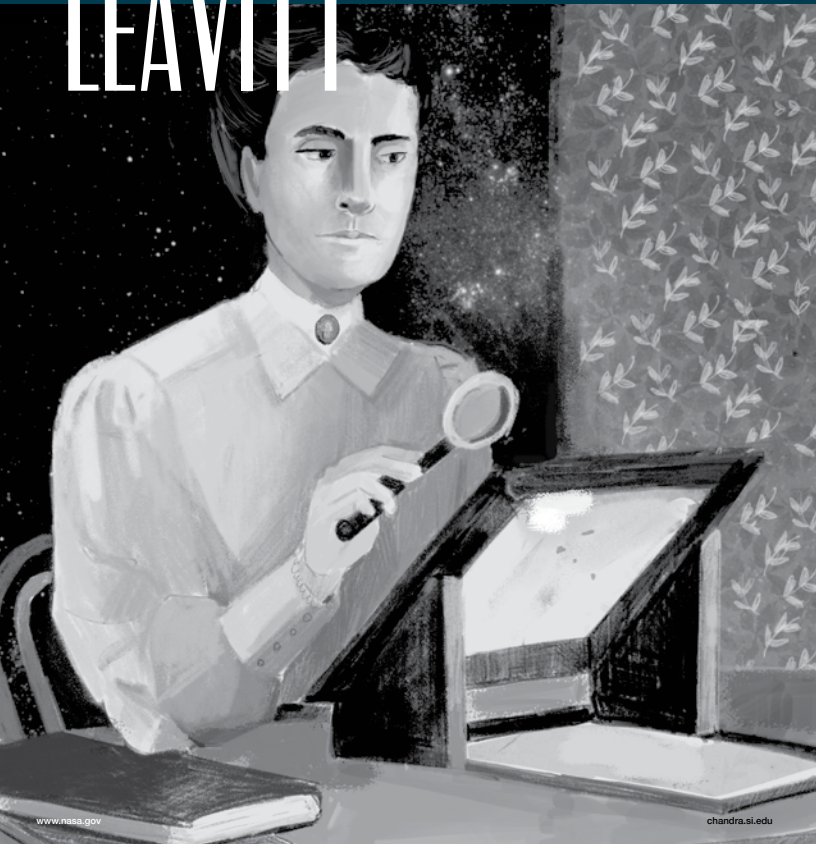




HENRIETTA LEAVITT



In the late 19th and early 20th century, Henrietta Swan Leavitt conducted research that led to two of the most surprising and important discoveries in the history of astrophysics. Leavitt performed meticulous analysis of pulsating stars called Cepheid variables. She used these observations to develop a powerful new tool for estimating the distances of stars and galaxies, a crucial advance for understanding the size and evolution of the Universe that astronomers of the day were struggling to accomplish. Astronomers still use her relationship - now generally called Leavitt's Law - in cosmological research today.

More information, resources & activities are available
at chandra.si.edu/women

Illustration: Kristin DiVona