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The Crab of 1054

A supernova so bright it could be seen in daylight, for weeks.

Hubble's nebulae page takes the Crab as its official example of a supernova remnant. "The explosion that created it in the year 1054 was so bright that for weeks it could be seen even in the daytime sky, and it was recorded by astronomers across the world."

Official measure	Official wording, kept as written
Year	The explosion was in 1054, visible in daylight for weeks, and recorded across the world.
Speed	"The material from the star is still rushing outward at around 3 million mph (4.8 million kph)."
Distance	The Hubble mosaic is of a remnant "located 6,500 light-years away."
Width, in the photograph caption	The official caption of the still used on the website describes a six-light-year-wide expanding remnant. That width and the 6,500 light-year distance are kept apart.
What it is not	It is not a planetary nebula. Official pages tie planetary nebulae to the quieter death of low- to medium-mass stars.

A short quiz

1. In which year was the explosion that created the Crab?
2. How fast is the material still expanding, according to the official page?
3. How far away does that page say the remnant is?

Answers. 1. 1054. 2. Around 3 million mph (4.8 million kph). 3. 6,500 light-years.

Wording from NASA Science, Hubble's Nebulae, and the official caption of the 2005 Hubble Crab mosaic. Checked 17 November 2026.
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