DARK MATTER

INVISIBLE
Dark matter doesn’t emit, absorb or reflect light, so it’s impossible to ‘see’.

IMPORTANT
Scientists think dark matter helps hold the universe together.

Advanced detectors help us to search for dark matter.

1933
Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky theorises the existence of a mysterious substance he calls ‘dark matter’.

1970’s
Vera Rubin discovers evidence to support the existence of dark matter.

1990’s onwards
Scientists begin running dark matter particle detectors in deep underground labs.

2000 onwards
Space-based detectors launched to search for indirect evidence of dark matter fragments.

MYSTERIOUS
It’s been many decades since we first theorised the existence of dark matter but we still haven’t PROVEN it!

A PARTICLE?

OR

GRAVITY
Most scientists think dark matter might be a strange type of particle. Others think it could be an undiscovered property of gravity.

DARK MATTER IS EVERYWHERE

Planets, stars, the stuff we can see makes up just 5% of the universe.

WEIRD
Normal 5% The other 95% is a mystery

DARK MATTER BENDS LIGHT
That’s how we know it exists.

Present day
THE SEARCH GOES ON

Science & Technology Facilities Council
10 Years of Impact and Inspiration