

Space hunt for new Earths

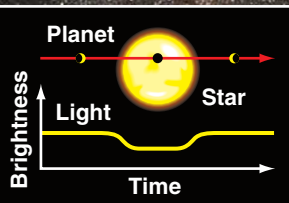
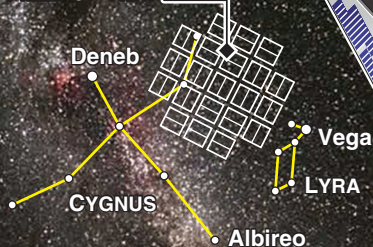
NASA's *Kepler* spacecraft is embarking on the first mission equipped with a new space telescope capable of detecting Earth-like planets outside our solar system

Three-and-a-half year quest will examine over 100,000 stars in **Cygnus-Lyra** region of our Milky Way galaxy



Kepler carries array of 42 charge-coupled devices (CCDs) – largest camera ever launched into space

TELESCOPE
FIELD OF VIEW



FINDING PLANETS

Kepler looks for tiny changes in brightness caused by transit of planets across face of stars

Spacecraft will be placed in Earth-trailing orbit around sun for best viewing of stars

Habitable zones: Around stars, could harbour hundreds of terrestrial planets

