

“There is no such thing as a problem without a gift for you in its hands. You seek problems because you need their gifts.”

Richard Bach



Dim World, Dark Nebula  
Credit & [Copyright: Ray Gralak](#)

## Explanation:

Dim, distant, [dwarf planet](#) Pluto can be hard to spot, especially in recent months as [it wanders through the crowded starfields](#) of Sagittarius and the central Milky Way. But fortunately for backyard [Pluto hunters](#), it crossed in front of a dark nebula in early July. The [diminutive world](#) is marked with two short lines near the center of this skyscape recorded from New Mexico Skies on July 5. Pluto stands out only because obscuring dark nebula Barnard 92 (B92) blocks the background of the [Milky Way's congeries](#) of faint, innumerable stars. Another of astronomer [E. E. Barnard's](#) cataloged [dark markings](#) on the sky, B93, is easy to pick out just left of B92. Prominent at the lower left is open star cluster [NGC 6603](#). In fact, Pluto, dark nebulae, and star cluster all lie within a portion of M24, also known as the [Sagittarius Star Cloud](#), filling most of the frame.

## Word of the Week:

### sparge

SPAHRJ

verb

### Meaning

1 : sprinkle, bespatter; *especially* : spray

\*2 : to agitate (a liquid) by means of compressed air or gas entering through a pipe

### Example Sentence

Part of the disinfecting process at the new water treatment plant may involve sparging the water with ozone bubbles.

### Did you know?

Etymologists think that "sparge" likely came to English by way of the Middle French word "espargier," itself from Latin "spargere," meaning "to scatter." ("Spargere" is also the source of "disperse," "intersperse," and "sparse," among others.) Although "sparge" has been a synonym for "sprinkle" since the late 16th century, you're now most likely to come across this word in one of two contexts. The first is a process called "air sparging," in which air is injected into groundwater to help remediate contamination. The second is the process of beer making, during which mash is sparged – that is, sprayed

with hot water to extract the wort. In *The New World Guide to Beer*, author Michael Jackson describes the process by which one particular beer is made, saying that "it is brewed only from first running, without sparging...."

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.