

No more duty can be urged upon those who are entering the great theatre of life than simple loyalty to their best convictions.

(Edwin Hubbell Chapin, American social reformer, 1814-1880)

New Hubble pictures/released 9/9/09



The barred spiral galaxy NGC 6217 was photographed on June 13 and July 8, 2009, as part of the initial testing and calibration of **Hubble's NGC 6217 Barred Spiral Galaxy NGC 6217**

This image of barred spiral galaxy NGC 6217 is the first image of a celestial object taken with the newly repaired Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) aboard the Hubble Space Telescope. The camera was restored to operation during the STS-125 servicing mission in May to upgrade Hubble.

The barred spiral galaxy NGC 6217 was photographed on June 13 and July 8, 2009, as part of the initial testing and calibration of Hubble's ACS.

The galaxy lies 6 million light-years away in the north circumpolar constellation Ursa Major.

Credit: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble SM4 ERO Team

slough

\SLUFF\ 

verb

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Meaning

1 : to cast off or become cast off

2 : to crumble slowly and fall away

*3 : to get rid of or discard as irksome, objectionable, or disadvantageous — usually used with *off*

Example Sentence

"As the war advanced the armies reluctantly sloughed off such amenities as two-man tents." (Paul Fussell, *Wartime*)

▣

Did you know?

There are two verbs spelled "slough" in English, as well as two nouns, and both sets have different pronunciations. The first noun, referring to a swamp or a discouraged state of mind, is pronounced to rhyme with either "blue" or "cow." Its related verb, which can mean "to plod through mud," has the same pronunciation. The second noun, pronounced to rhyme with "cuff," refers to the shed skin of a snake (as well as anything else that has been cast off). Its related verb describes the action of shedding or eliminating something, just like a snake sheds its skin. This "slough" derives from Middle English "slughe" and is distantly related to a Middle High German word meaning "snakeskin."

*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

Best Regards,

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