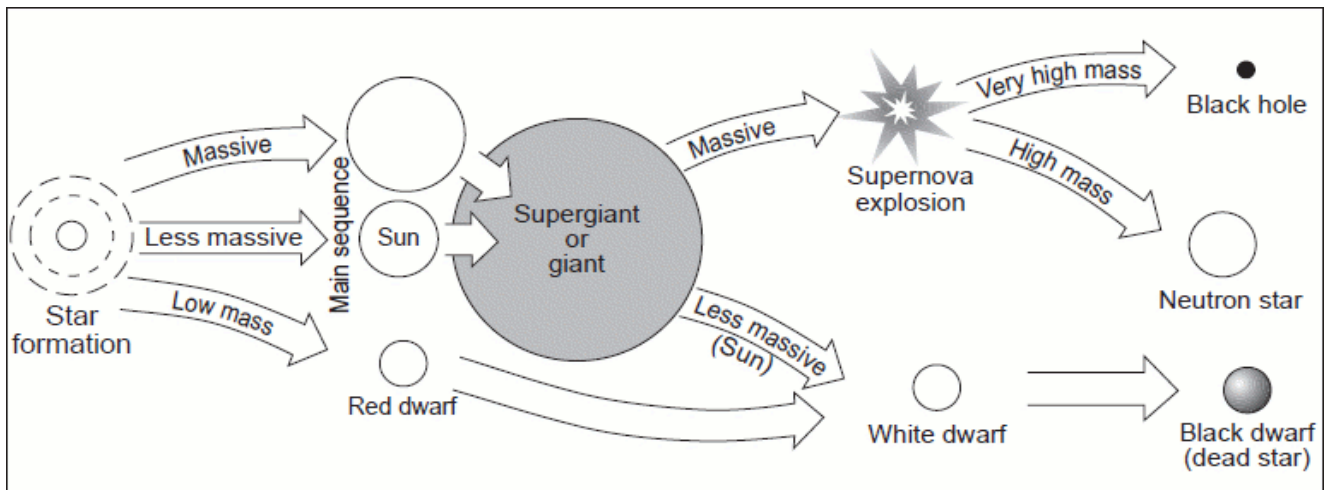
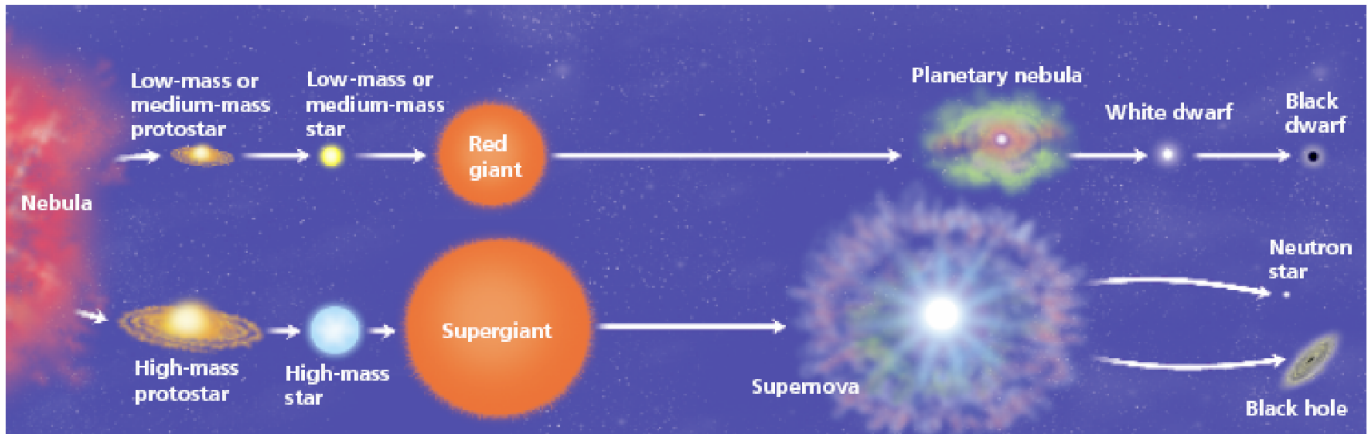


Star Life Cycle

A STAR IS BORN – STAGES COMMON TO ALL STARS

All stars start as a **nebula**. A **nebula** is a large cloud of gas and dust. Gravity can pull some of the gas and dust in a nebula together. The contracting cloud is then called a **protostar**. A protostar is the earliest stage of a star's life. A **star is born when the gas and dust from a nebula become so hot that nuclear fusion starts**. Once a star has "turned on" it is known as a **main sequence star**. When a main sequence star begins to run out of hydrogen fuel, the star becomes a **red giant** or **red super giant**.



(Not drawn to scale)

THE DEATH OF A LOW OR MEDIUM MASS STAR

After a low or medium mass star has become a red giant the outer parts grow bigger and drift into space, forming a cloud of gas called a **planetary nebula**. The blue-white hot core of the star that is left behind cools and becomes a **white dwarf**. The white dwarf eventually runs out of fuel and dies as a **black dwarf**.

THE DEATH OF A HIGH MASS STAR

A dying red super giant star can suddenly explode. The explosion is called a **supernova**. After the star explodes, some of the materials from the star are left behind. This material may form a neutron star. **Neutron stars** are the remains of high-mass stars. The most massive stars become **black holes** when they die. After a large mass star explodes, a large amount of mass may remain. The gravity of the mass is so strong that gas is pulled inward, pulling more gas into a smaller and smaller space. Eventually, the gravity becomes so strong that nothing can escape, not even light.

Question Sheet

Just like living things and humans, stars have a life cycle, which consists of birth, growth, development, middle age, old age, and death. The life cycle of a star spans over billions of years.

Section 1 – Sequencing

The stages below are not in the right order. Number the stages in the correct order.

- _____ The star begins to run out of fuel and expands into a **red giant** or **red super giant**.
- _____ Stars start out as diffused clouds of gas and dust drifting through space. One of these clouds is called a **nebula**
- _____ Fuel is gone, and what happens next depends on the mass of the star.
- _____ Heat and pressure build in the core of the **protostar** until **nuclear fusion** takes place.
- _____ The force of gravity pulls a nebula together forming clumps called **protostars**.
- _____ Hydrogen atoms are fused together generating an enormous amount of energy igniting the star causing it to shine.

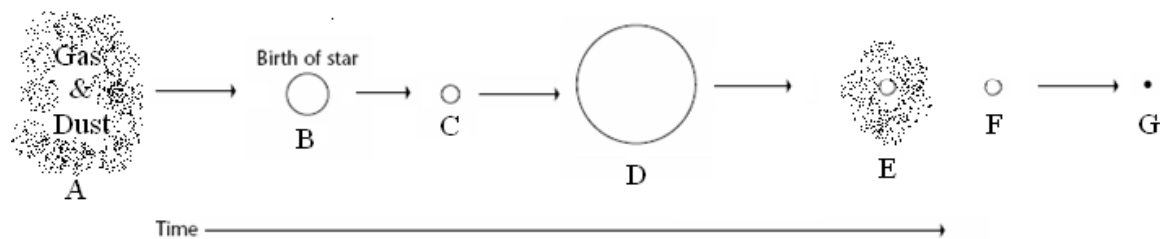
Section 2 – Vocabulary

Match the word on the left with the definition on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ black dwarf | a. star left at the core of a planetary nebula |
| _____ white dwarf | b. a red super giant star explodes |
| _____ nebula | c. what a medium-mass star becomes at the end of its life |
| _____ protostar | d. a large cloud of gas or dust in space |
| _____ supernova | e. exerts such a strong gravitational pull that no light escapes |
| _____ neutron star | f. the earliest stage of a star 's life |
| _____ black hole | g. the remains of a high mass star |

Section 3 – Understanding Main Ideas: Low Mass Star

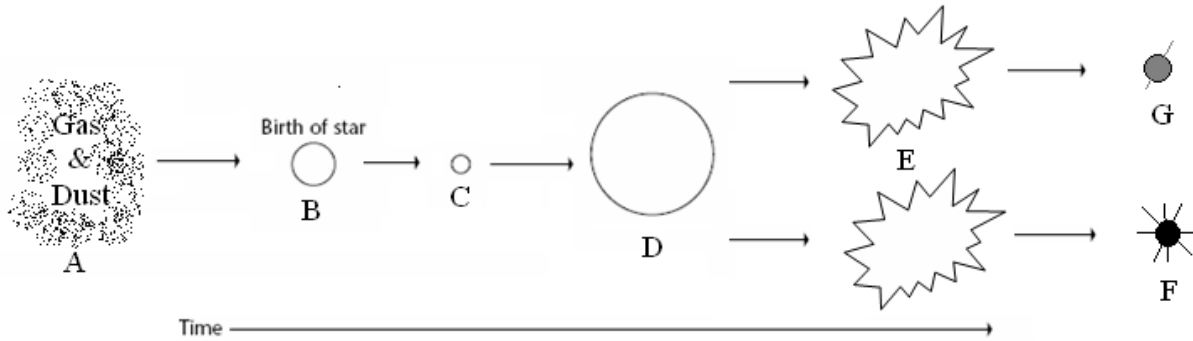
Write down the Letter that matches each object.



- _____ 1. Red giant
- _____ 2. Where fusion begins
- _____ 3. Nebula
- _____ 4. Black dwarf
- _____ 5. The stage the sun is in
- _____ 6. White dwarf
- _____ 7. Planetary Nebula

Section 4 – Understanding Main Ideas: High Mass Star

Write down the letter that matches each object.



- ___ 1. Black Hole
- ___ 2. Supernova
- ___ 3. Protostar
- ___ 4. Gravity causes this to condense into a protostar
- ___ 5. Main sequence star
- ___ 6. When a star begins to run out of fuel and grows larger
- ___ 7. Neutron star

Section 5 - Vocabulary

Use the following words to fill in the blanks

Black hole
Average

Massive
Nebulae

White dwarf
Super-giants

Supernova
Planetary Nebula

Neutron star

1. _____ are clouds of dust and gas from which a star first forms. They are pulled together by gravity into a spinning disc. The center of the disc becomes a star while the rest can become a system of planets.
2. _____ come from giant or massive stars. They grow to as much as three times the mass of our sun as they lose the nuclear fuel at their core. The outer layer of this red star expands as the core contracts.
3. Nebula can form either an _____ star that is about the size of our Sun or a _____ star which can be over three times as big as our Sun! These stars stay in this period for most of their lives and they convert hydrogen to helium while generating lots of heat and light.
4. At the end of the life of a giant star, a _____ is resulted when a red supergiant's core collapses in on itself. The electrical forces at the center of the star overcome the gravitational pull and create a massive explosion that scatters the outer layers of the red supergiant.
5. The outer layers of a red giant keep expanding until they eventually drift off and form a _____.
6. Eventually the outer layers of an average star drift away and the star becomes a much smaller _____. It has now run out of nuclear fuel to burn off.
7. This star is very small and tremendously dense and marks the end of the supergiant's life cycle. It has a strong magnetic field, a very fast spin and is about 1.4 times the mass of the sun – it is called a _____.

8. If the star is very massive or big enough, a _____ is formed, which is so dense that not even light can escape its gravitational pull!