

Constellation Worksheets & Lesson for Kids

- FREE TEACHING TOOLS FOR STAR GAZERS AGES 9-12 -

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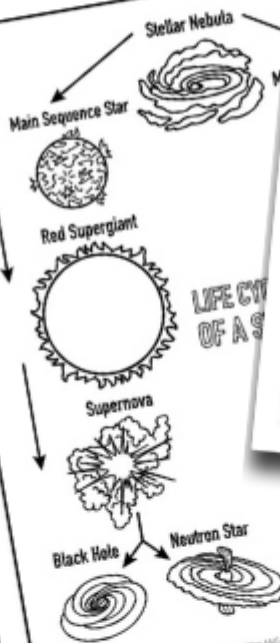
Life Cycle of a Star

Stars have a definite life cycle with a beginning and an end. They start off when a large cloud of gas begins to form in space. Gravity pulls more and more gases into the cloud, which is called a **stellar nebula**.

The gases run into each other and create heat which allows molecules and elements to clump together. This clump is a baby star called a **protostar**. Several protostars can form inside a nebula.

Eventually, these gases burn hot enough for fusion to take place. At this point, the star begins to burn hydrogen and takes a solid shape. It enters the next stage of life as a **main sequence star**. A star will spend most of its life in this stage. During this time, it is fusing hydrogen into helium at its core. This process produces a lot of heat and gives the star a yellow or blue appearance. Our sun is a main sequence star.

Now, the next phase of a star's life begins. If the star has used up most of its hydrogen, the star begins to expand and become a **red giant**. If the star is very large, it will become a **red supergiant**. At the end of its life, a star can become a **supernova**, a **neutron star**, a **black hole**, or a **black dwarf**.



VIRGO



Leo Minor

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