

WHERE DO **STARS** COME FROM?

AND **WHERE** DO THEY **GO**?

IT ALL STARTS HERE:

Raw materials

Interstellar gas occupies the spaces between the stars.

Star birth

Stars form from collapsing clouds of interstellar gas.

WHEN A **LARGE-MASS** STAR FORMS:

Blue stars

Very massive stars look blue.

Old stars

Near the end of their lives, all stars grow red and large.

The length of a star's life cycle is determined by its mass. Small-mass stars live longer than large-mass stars.

Yellow stars

Stars with masses similar to the Sun look yellowish during most of their lives.

WHEN A **SMALL-MASS** STAR FORMS:

Puffffff!

Sunlike stars gently puff off their outer layers when they die, forming planetary nebulae.

Kaboom!

Stars starting out with more than 10 times the Sun's mass explode when they die, forming supernovae.

Leftovers

Dying stars recycle much of their matter through interstellar space, adding new elements that enrich future generations of stars. Many of these elements are essential for life.

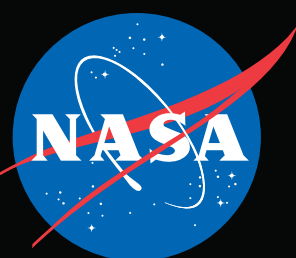


Illustration adapted from art by Don Dixon for the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service exhibit Hubble Space Telescope: New Views of the Universe.

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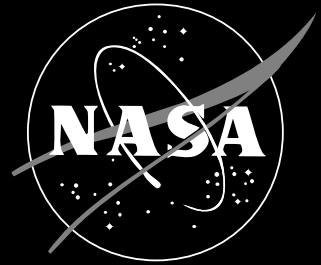
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