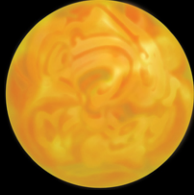


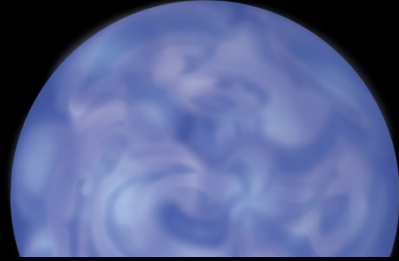
Star Stage Cards

Graphics credit: NASA/CXC/M.Weiss, from [Chandra Stellar Evolution website](http://www.chandra.harvard.edu/education/ChandraStellarEvolutionWebsite/)

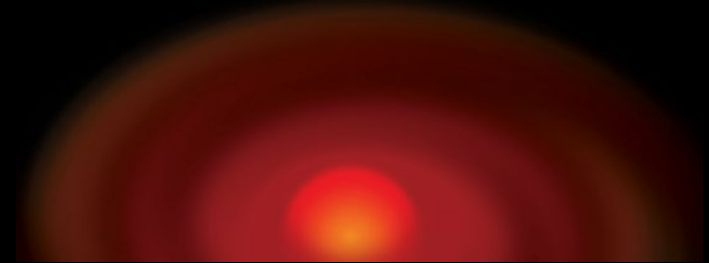
Sun-like Star



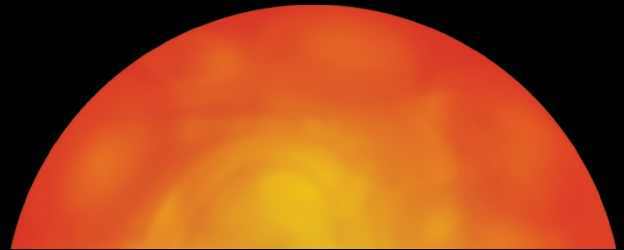
Blue Giant Star



Protostar



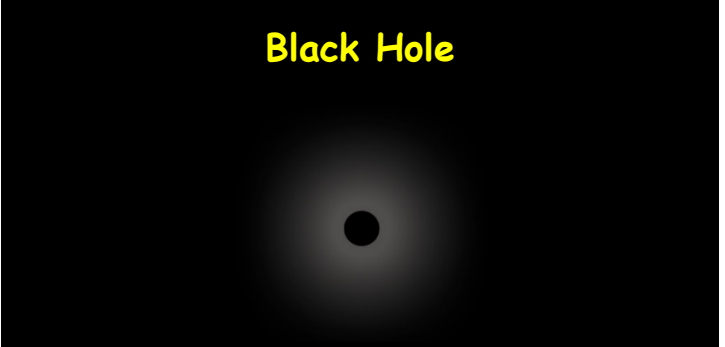
Red Supergiant Star



Supernova



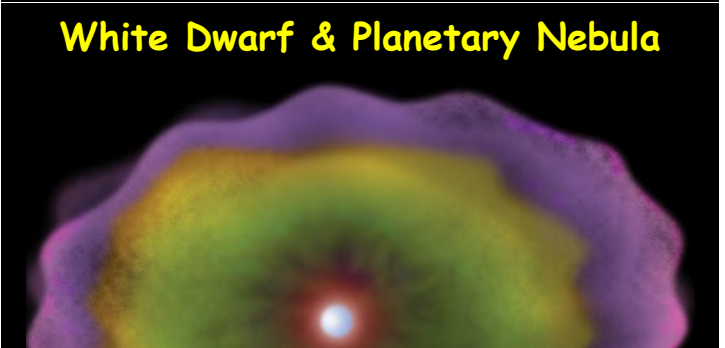
Black Hole



Red Giant Star



White Dwarf & Planetary Nebula



Brown or Black Dwarf



Stage Description Cards

<p>Lower mass stars eventually release their outer layers as <u>this huge cloud</u> of gas. The core shrinks down to a tiny white-hot object about the size of the Earth.</p>	<p>Towards the end of their life cycles, these older <u>lower mass stars expand and cool</u>. As our Sun expands, it will swallow Mercury, Venus, and maybe Earth!</p>
<p>Towards the end of their life cycles, higher mass stars expand into <u>these enormous stars</u>. The biggest are 1,000 times wider than our Sun!</p>	<p><u>These hot stars</u> have more mass than stars like our Sun, and shorter life cycles than lower mass stars.</p>
<p><u>This</u> is the final stage in the life-cycle of the most massive stars. The gravity around these is so strong that light cannot escape.</p>	<p>Over time, white dwarfs will cool <u>into these</u> and no longer glow. Calculations show it would take about 1 trillion years! None have finished cooling yet.</p>
<p>Red supergiants eventually become unstable, exploding <u>into these</u>! The outside collapses on the core, throwing the outer layers of the star into space. A small core remains.</p>	<p><u>These stars</u> have lower mass and live longer lives than higher mass stars. Our Sun is one of these.</p>
<p>Clouds of gas and dust rotate, and much of the gas and dust is pulled to the center of the cloud. At this point, <u>this star</u> begins to form. Though it gives off lots of heat, it does not glow with visible light.</p>	