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Activities

Fate of the Sun

Name: _____ Date: _____

Like any other star, the sun will eventually burn up all of its fuel. Don't worry, that won't happen for several billion years. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll track the life cycle of an "average" star to learn the Sun's fate.

Directions

- Start at this page about the formation of Protostars. Read through the text, then answer Workspace question 1.
- Next, find out how Main Sequence stars form. Read through the page, study the illustrations, then answer questions 2 and 3.
- Refer back to the paragraph on Equilibrium on the Main Sequence stars page, and study the diagram. Then read the glossary definition of Equilibrium. Answer question 4.
- Next, go to Old Stars. Read through the text and study the images. Then, use the information you have learned to answer question 5.
- Finally, take a look at Stellar Remnants. Read the text, and click on the links to *white dwarves and neutron stars to read more about them in the glossary. Answer the last question.*

Workspace

1. How does a protostar form within a nebula?

2. What is the main "battle" going on inside stars as they burn their fuel?

3. What determines how long a star will will remain a main sequence star?

4. What is a star's "main goal in life"?

5. What event marks the beginning of the end for main sequence stars?

6. Compare the fates of the various stellar remnants. Which is most probable for our Sun?

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