## **Earth Science in Physics**

## Earth Science in Physics

#### **Objectives**

Explain how stars like our sun use nuclear fusion to create energy.

Identify the different stages of stellar evolution.

Explain Hubble's Law.

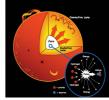
Explain what causes plate tectonics.



A nuclear reaction in which atomic nuclei of a low atomic number fuse to form a heavier nucleus with the release of energy.

Takes place in the core of stars where temps are hot enough.

In the core of a star like our sun, hydrogen atoms are fused into helium atoms and energy is released in the form of light & heat.



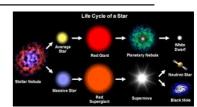
## Lifecycle of a Star

Driven by force of gravity & pressure from nuclear fusion.



## Lifecycle of a Star the size of our Sun

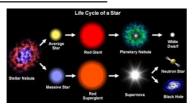
When hydrogen fusion stops, core shrinks making it hotter in core. This triggers fusion of helium into carbon & outer layer of star is pushed back. The star is a Red Giant.



Average stars like our Sun end with carbon.

## Lifecycle of more massive stars

When almost all He is gone, core shrinks down more increasing the temp and fusion of He & C create oxygen atoms. (Ne, Mg, Fe)



Massive stars end with Iron.

## Lifecycle of more massive stars

Core fused with Iron is very dense.

, Star explodes -

Supernova

Mass not great enough - neutron star

Mass so great that core collapses due to gravity - black hole

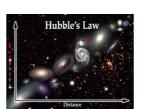


Massive stars end with Iron.

## **Earth Science in Physics**

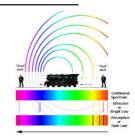
### **Hubble's Law**

- Explains our expanding universe.
- The distant galaxies we see in all directions are moving away from the Earth, as evidenced by their red shifts.
- The farther away an object is, the faster it is moving away.



### How did Hubble make this discovery?

- Doppler Effect : apparent change in the frequency of a wave that is caused by the apparent motion between the observer and the source of the wave.
- Use spectrum of light to see if star is moving towards or away from us.
  - Look at the change in frequency of light



#### **Spectral Lines of Elements** Hubble's red shift discovery • Hubble examined light from • All objects that emit light, stars in the distant galaxies like stars, give off certain and found that the pattern of spectral lines. spectral lines of the elements shifted toward the red end of • Spectral lines help the spectrum. identify elements that make up stars. Red Shift - objects that are moving away from us • Blue Shift - objects that are moving towards us • Greater the shift, the faster they are moving away.

## Evidence of the Big Bang Theory

- Big Bang Theory: Universe began has a point and has been expanding since.
- Hubble's Law supported the idea of the Big Bang.
- If the expanding universe was ran in reverse, everything would move back to one central point.



#### **Convection Currents within Earth's Interior** Convection currents : movement caused by the gain and loss of heat energy. crust. • Mantle closest to the core gains heat energy and becomes less dense than the surrounding cooler mantle and rises towards the crust. **Convection currents in** the mantle cause • As it reaches the crust, the tectonic movement. mantle cools and becomes more dense than the surrounding mantle and sinks back down toward the core.

# Earth Science in Physics

