



Cotton Candy Nebula



Purpose: This lab is designed to show how the mass inside nebulae is compacted due to gravity to form a protostar.

TEKS: 8.8A

Directions:

1. Give each group a sealed baggie with some cotton candy in it.
2. Have each group find the mass the cotton candy using either an electronic balance or triple-beam balance.
3. Then each group should compact the candy into a small ball. The smaller the better.
4. Have them mass the cotton candy again.
5. This represents the birth of a star.
6. Discuss the process, and explain how the size of a star depends on the mass of gas and dust in a nebula.