

STAGE 1

A large volume of a dust/gas **nebula** begins contracting, falling together under the influence of the mutual **gravitational pull** of all the material; as the cloud gets smaller, fragmentation probably occurs, but the "stellar pieces" each get smaller and denser, as part of a large cluster of collapsing fragments. [Note : extended clusters of very young stars are known as **associations** and are always found in nebulous regions.]



STAGE 2

As the "cloud fragment" shrinks, the outer "edge" stays cool and much less dense than the central region, which will get denser and hotter much faster, although it is still very cold.

