What Kinds of Stars Are There?

In this activity, you will use Internet resources to make a picture postcard for one type of star.

1. Select one type of star from the following list (NOTE: Astronomers use the term “dwarf” to describe stars smaller than our sun. Giant and supergiant stars are much larger than our sun.):
   - Red dwarf
   - White dwarf
   - Yellow star
   - White star
   - Red giant
   - Yellow giant
   - White giant
   - Red supergiant
   - Yellow supergiant
   - Blue supergiant
   - Mira variable star
   - Cepheid variable star
   - Neutron star

2. Make a picture postcard of your star. Your postcard should:
   - point out the important and exciting features of the star
   - include a sketch or picture of the star and highlight characteristics such as color, surface temperature, mass, diameter, and special features

3. When all of your classmates’ postcards are displayed, circulate around the room and look at them.

Reflect on what you’ve seen

1. What is the range of diameters of your class’s stars?

2. What is the range of surface temperatures of your class’s stars?

3. Which of the stars has the coolest surface temperature? Which type of star has the hottest surface temperature?

4. How are surface temperatures related to the colors of the stars?