

The Deaths of Stars—First Thoughts**E4:A0**

In the previous Exploration, you classified stars and explored the life cycles of both low- and high-mass stars. Most of a star's life is quiet, stable, and uneventful. The latter stages, though, are marked by sudden changes, and in some cases sudden destruction.

In this Exploration, you will focus on the final stages in the evolution of stars. You will be introduced to some of the most fascinating and thought-provoking objects in the universe. As you proceed, keep in mind the following Essential Question:

What happens when different types of stars die?*First Thoughts—Making Claims*

To begin this Exploration, you will make claims about the deaths of stars.

1. What do you think happens when a star dies?
2. Is there anything left over after the death of a star?
3. How do you think the process of star death differs for different types of stars?

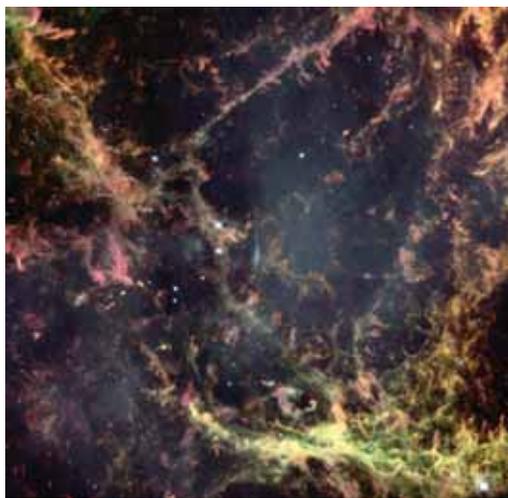


Figure 3-1: Image of wisps of gas, which are all that remain of a once mighty 15-solar-mass supergiant star that exploded thousands of years ago