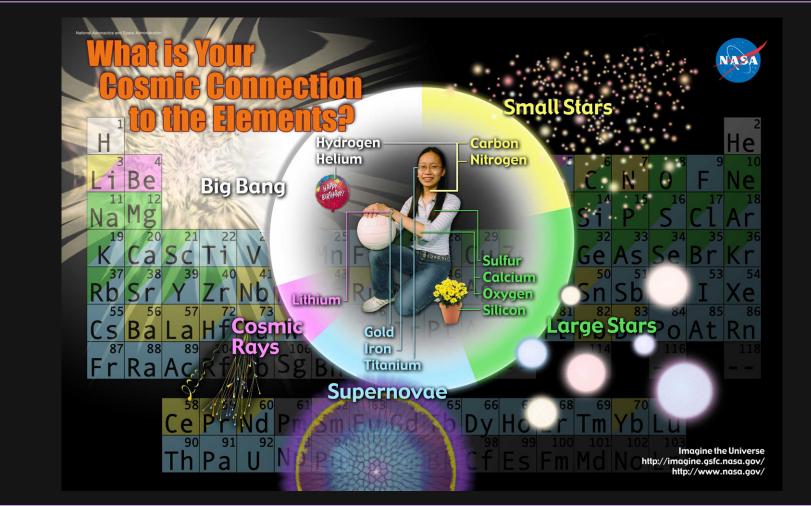
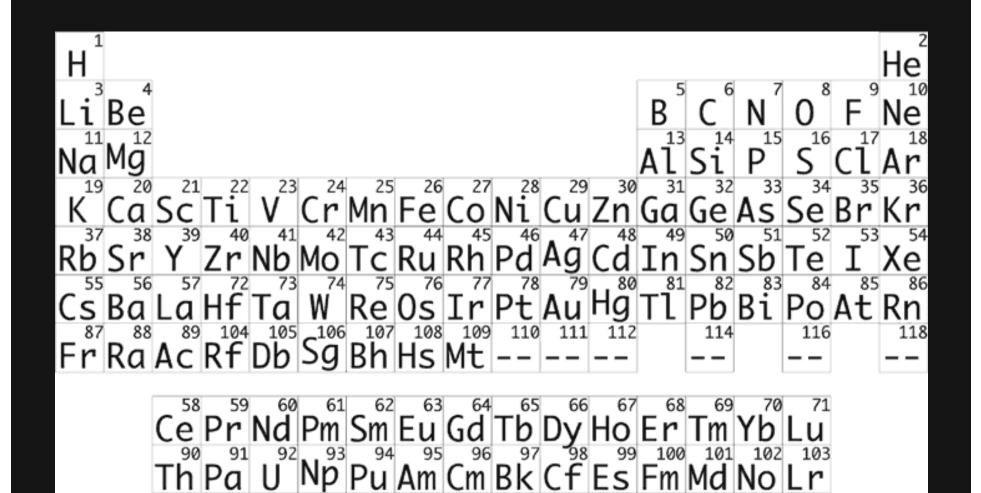
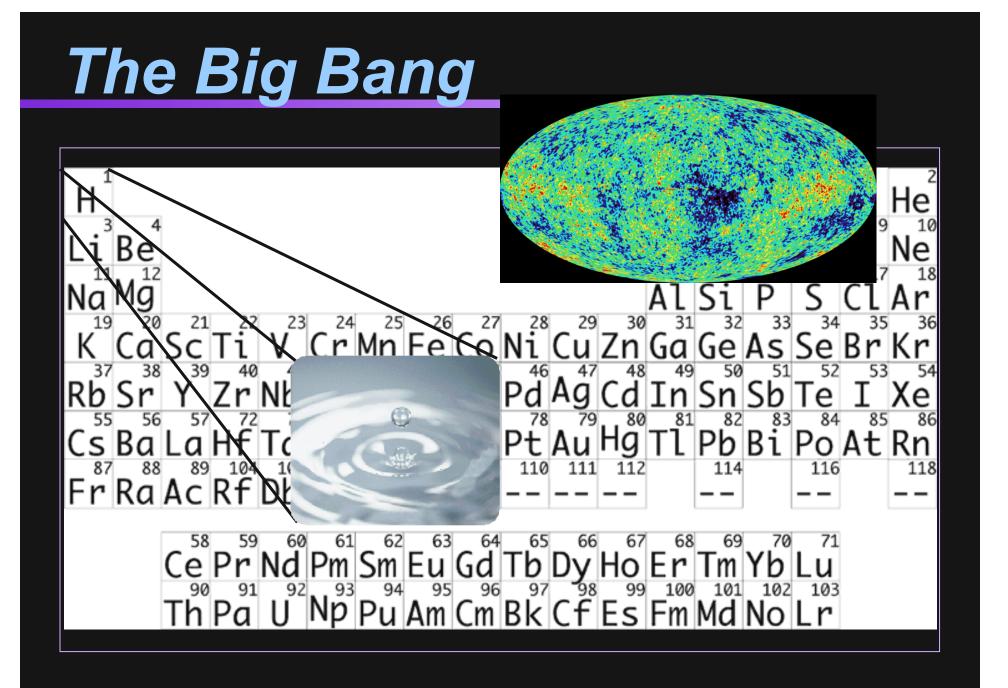
#### Your Cosmic Connection to the Elements

James Lochner (USRA) & Suzanne Pleau Kinnison (AESP), NASA/GSFC



# **Elementary Connections**





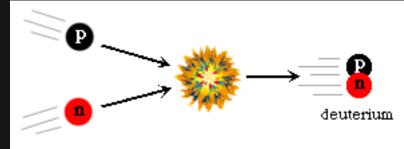
# The Big Bang Cosmology

- The expansion of the universe began at a finite time in the past, in a state of enormous density, pressure and temperature.
- "Big Bang" is a highly successful family of theories with no obvious competitor.
  - Explains what we see, and has made several successful predictions.

# **Big Bang Nucleosynthesis**

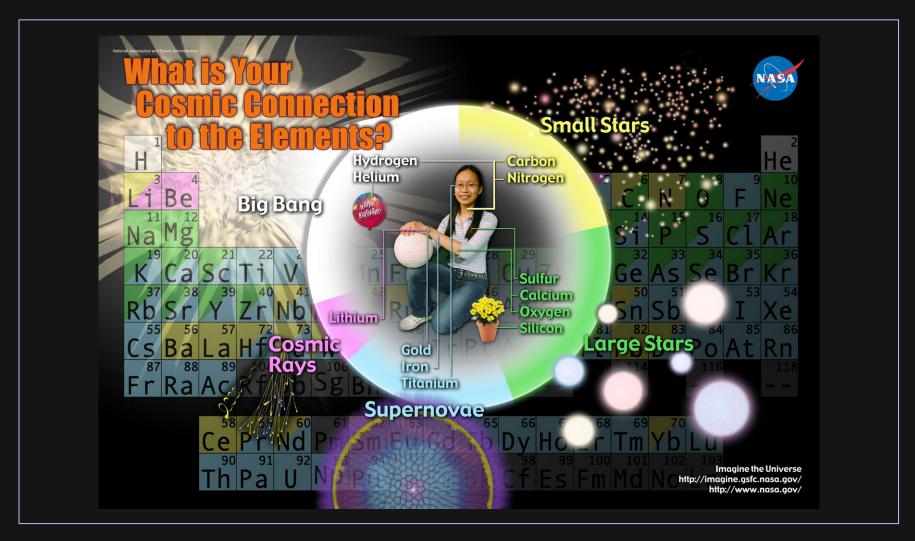
Within first three minutes, Hydrogen & Helium formed.

- At t =1 s, T=10,000,000,000 K: soup of particles: photons, electrons, positrons, protons, neutrons.
  Particles created & destroyed.
- At t =3 min, T=1,000,000,000 K: p+n => D

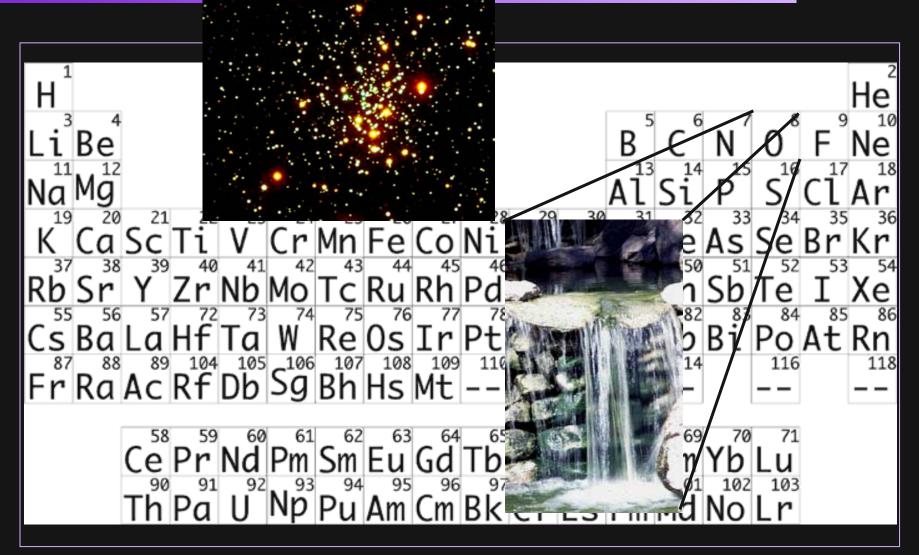




#### Your Cosmic Connection to the Elements?



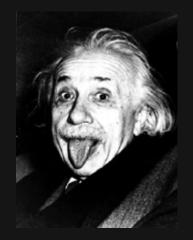
# **Small Stars**



# Small Stars: Fusion of light elements

Fusion: (at 15 million degrees !) 4 (<sup>1</sup>H) => <sup>4</sup>He + 2 e<sup>+</sup> + 2 neutrinos + energy Where does the energy come from ? Mass of four <sup>1</sup>H > Mass of one <sup>4</sup>He

 $E = mc^2$ 



# Small Stars to Red Giants

After Hydrogen is exhausted in core,

Energy released from nuclear fusion no longer counter-acts inward force of gravity.

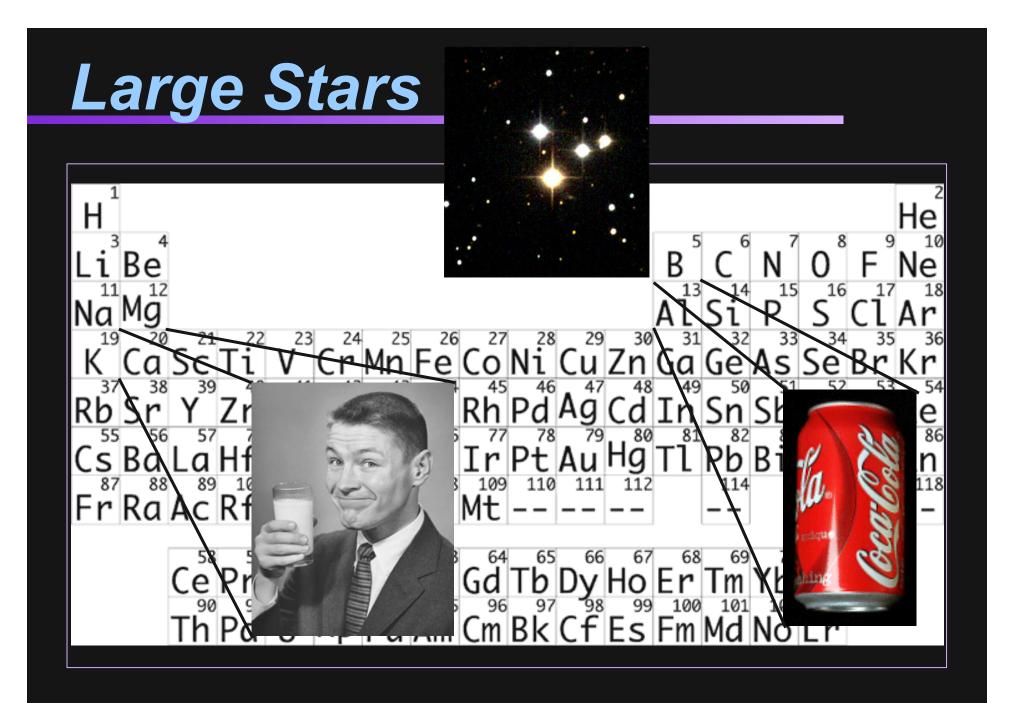
- Core collapses,
  - · Kinetic energy of collapse converted into heat.
  - · This heat expands the outer layers.
- Meanwhile, as core collapses,
  - Increasing Temperature and Pressure ...

# **Beginning of Heavier Elements**

At 100 million degrees Celsius, Helium fuses:  $3 (^{4}\text{He}) => ^{12}\text{C} + \text{energy}$ 

After Helium exhausted, small star not large enough to attain temperatures necessary to fuse Carbon.



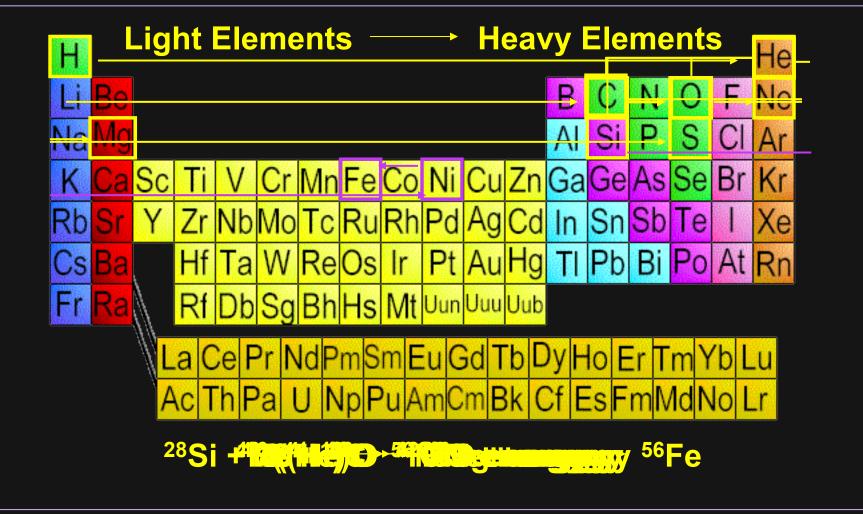


# Heavy Elements from Large Stars

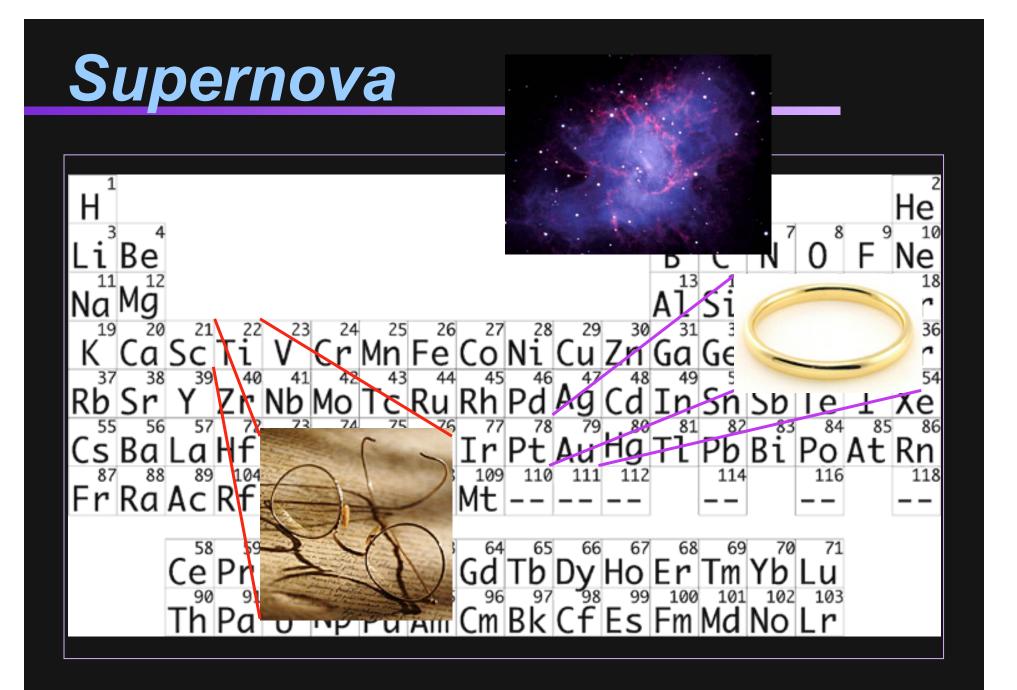
Large stars also fuse Hydrogen into Helium, and Helium into Carbon.

But their larger masses lead to higher temperatures, which allow fusion of Carbon into Magnesium, etc.

# **Element Formation through Fusion**



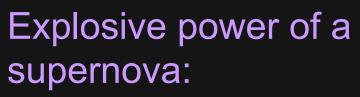




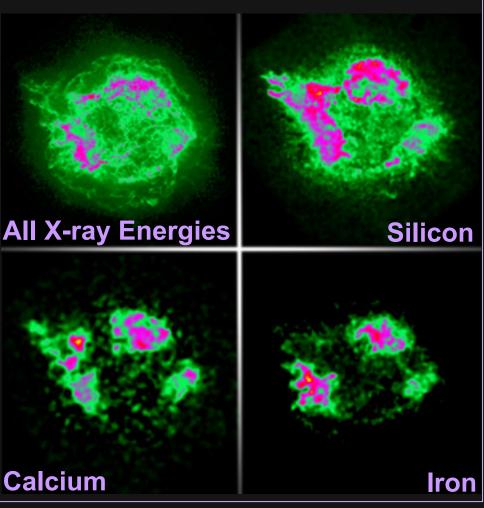
### Supernova

Fusion of Iron takes energy, rather than releases energy. So fusion stops at Iron. Energy released from nuclear fusion no longer counter-acts inward force of gravity. But now there is nothing to stop gravity. Massive star ends its life in supernova explosion.

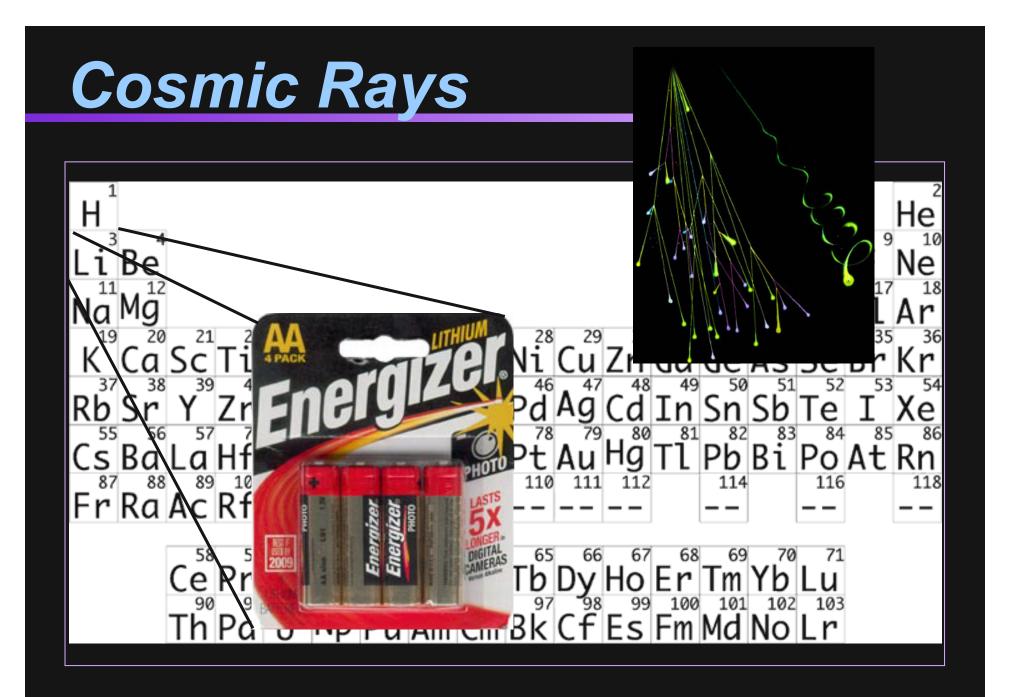
# Supernova



- Disperses elements created in large stars.
- Creates new elements, especially those heavier than Iron.







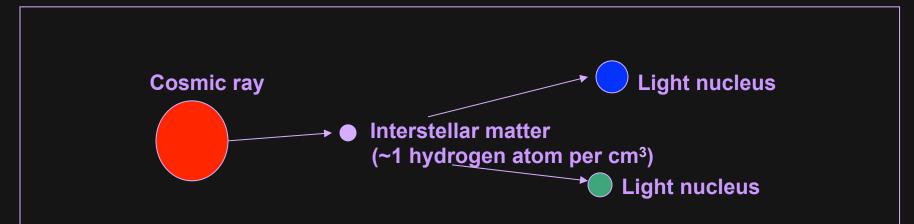
# **Cosmic Rays**

Lithium, Beryllium, and Boron are difficult to produce in stars.

(L, Be, and B are formed in the fusion chains, but they are unstable at high temperatures, and tend to break up into residues of He, which are very stable).

So what is the origin of these rare elements? => Collisions of Cosmic Rays with Hydrogen & Helium in interstellar space.

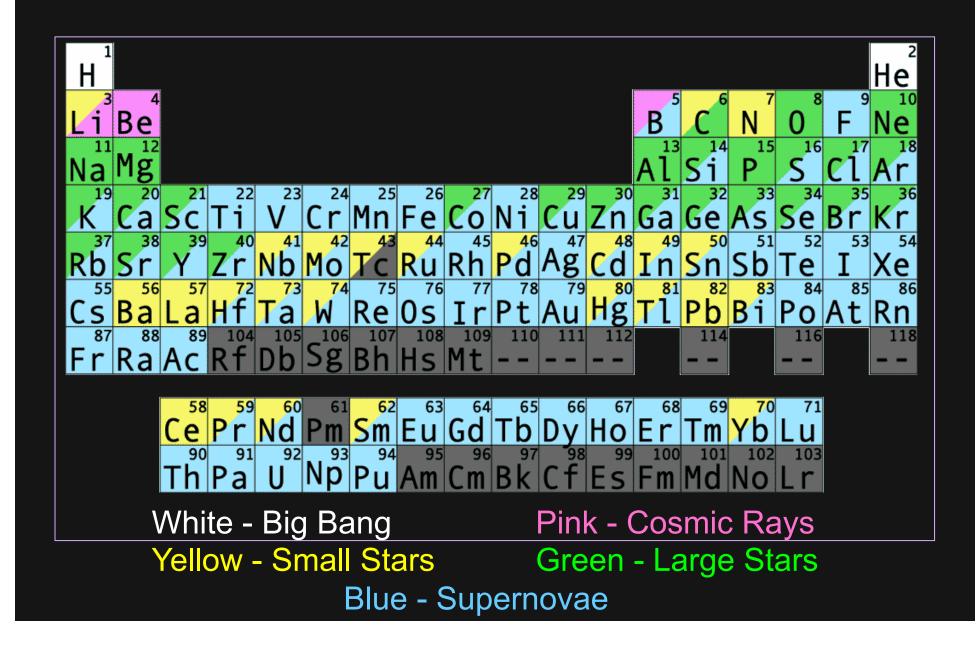
# **Cosmic Rays Collisions with ISM**



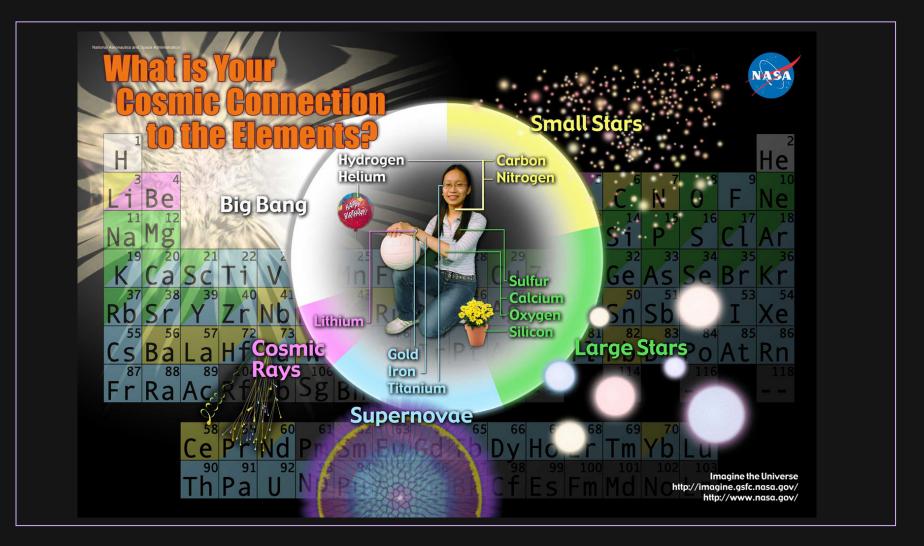
Lithium, beryllium, and boron and sub-iron enhancements attributed to nuclear fragmentation of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and iron with interstellar matter (primarily hydrogen and helium).

(CNO or Fe) + (H & He)<sub>ISM</sub>  $\Rightarrow$  (LiBeB or sub-Fe)

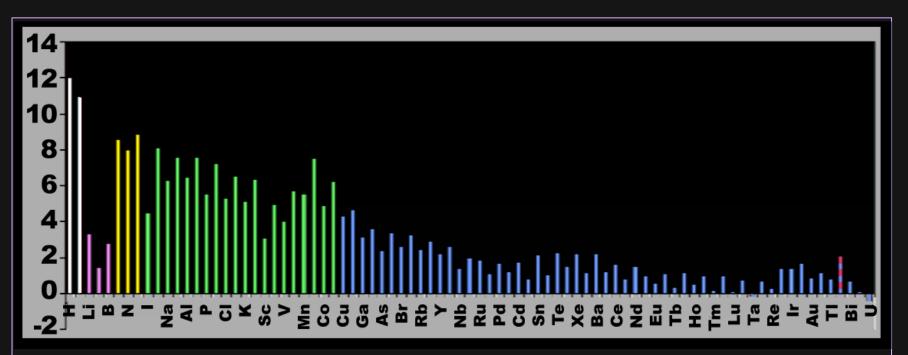
## **Cosmic Elements**



#### Your Cosmic Connection to the Elements?



# **Composition of the Universe**



Actually, this is just the solar system.

Composition varies from place to place in universe, and between different objects.

# "What's Out There?"

(Developed by Stacie Kreitman, Falls Church, VA)

A classroom activity that demonstrates the different elemental compositions of different objects in the universe.

 Demonstrates how we estimate the abundances.

# Top 10 Elements in the Human Body

|     | Element         | by # atoms |
|-----|-----------------|------------|
| 10. | Magnesium (Mg)  | 0.03%      |
| 9.  | Chlorine (Cl)   | 0.04%      |
| 8.  | Sodium (Na)     | 0.06%      |
| 7.  | Sulfur (S)      | 0.06%      |
| 6.  | Phosphorous (P) | 0.20%      |
| 5.  | Calcium (Ca)    | 0.24%      |
| 4.  | Nitrogen (N)    | 1.48%      |
| 3.  | Carbon (C)      | 9.99%      |
| 2.  | Oxygen (O)      | 26.33%     |
| 1.  | Hydrogen (H)    | 61.56%     |

# **Spectral Analysis**

We can't always get a sample of a piece of the Universe.

So we depend on light !

# **Spectral Analysis**

Each element has a unique spectral signature:

- Determined by arrangement of electrons.
- Lines of emission or absorption arise from re-arrangement of electrons into different energy levels.



# Nickel-odeon Classroom Activity

(Developed by Shirley Burris, Nova Scotia)

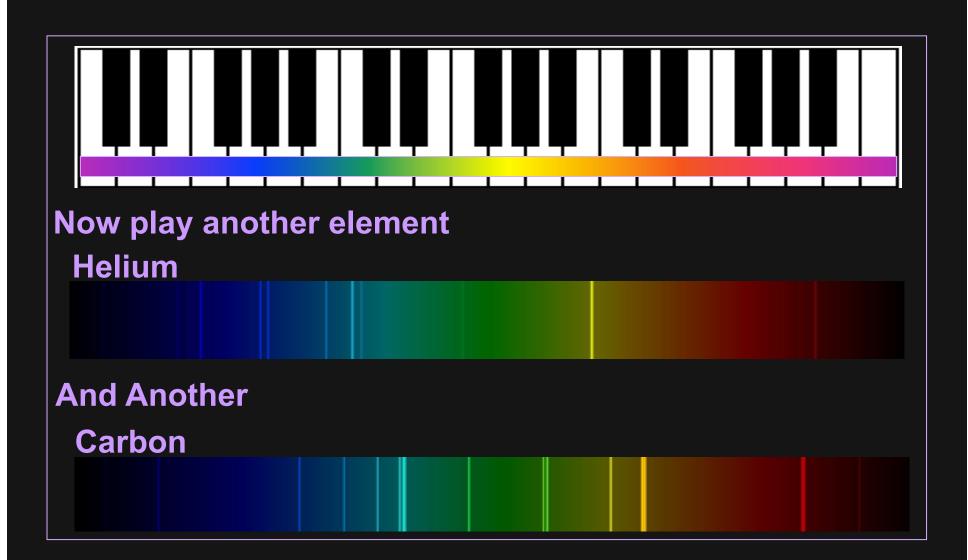
Spread a rainbow of color across a piano keyboard



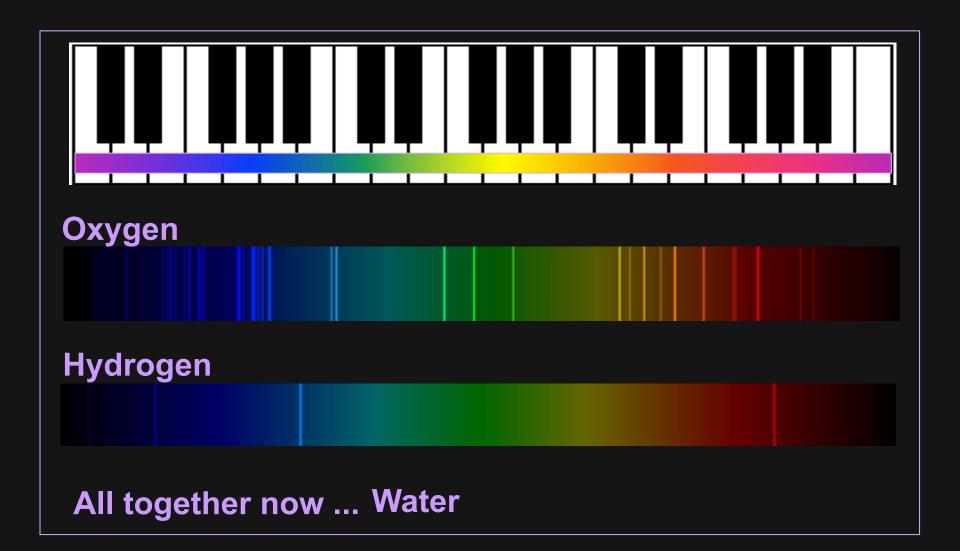
#### Then, "play" an element

#### Hydrogen

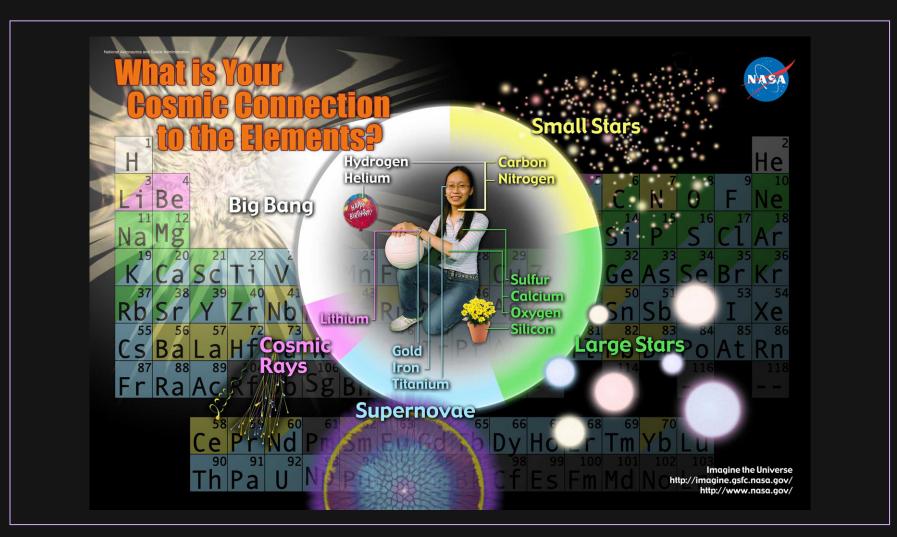
## More Musical Elements



# Getting a Handle on Water



#### Your Cosmic Connection to the Elements?



http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/teachers/elements/

# **Cosmic Connections**

# To make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe.

Carl Sagan