

Running Paper on Black Holes

1. Will the Sun ever become a black hole?
2. What determines whether or not a star becomes a black hole?
3. The Cygnus X-1 system was the example given for a suspected black hole. How do astronomers know the mass of the suspected black hole?
4. What does the “X” stand for?

Form pairs or trios and discuss #3.

5. Today in class we have been discussing black holes that result from the collapse of a star. There is another kind of black hole that can form at the center of a galaxy, a supermassive black hole. How do you think it would be possible to detect such a supermassive black hole? Discuss with a partner.
6. Revise questions 1 & 2, if necessary.