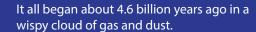
How did our solar system come to be?





At some point, part of the cloud collapsed in on itself—possibly because the shockwave of a nearby supernova explosion caused it to compress.

The result: a flat spinning disk of dust and gas.

4.6 Billion Years Ago

> This cloud was a small part of a much bigger cloud.

Nuclear fusion occurs fuse into helium.

when hydrogen atoms

The material left behind by the sun clumped together into bigger and bigger pieces.

Only rocky things could survive close to the sun, so gaseous and icy material collected further away. That's how our solar system came to be the place it is today!

When enough material collected at this disk's center, nuclear fusion began. Our sun was born. It gobbled up 99.8% of all the material.

> These clumps became planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, and moons.

> > Present

Comets and asteroids are the left over remains of the solar system's formation.

