

Star Fossils

If you look at certain meteorites on a microscopic level, you'll find within them submicron bits of presolar grains.

These are bits of dust that condensed in the atmospheres of stars billions of years ago before our solar system formed.

And those grains, when the star died, were ejected in stellar outflows.

And they travel throughout the interstellar medium, and they ultimately got incorporated into our solar system.

And you can find these fossils of these dead stars in these meteorites that we study.

All of the material that we're made of is stardust. But it's all been reworked and reprocessed, and so it all has the same fingerprint as other stuff in our solar system.

These fossils still retain the original isotopic signature of the stars from which they came.