

## Unit 2: The Big Bang

**Driving Question:** How and why do individuals change their minds?

How and why did human understanding of the universe change?

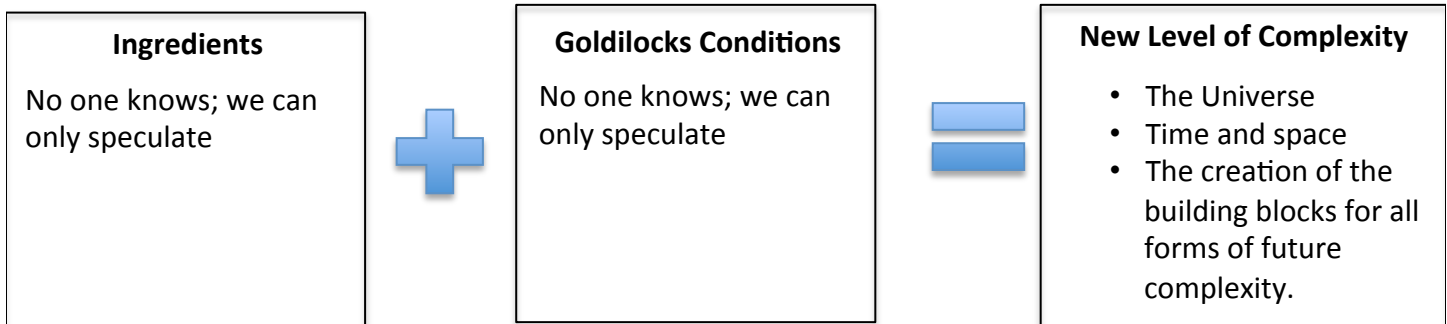
**Unit Description:** How have our views of the Universe developed and changed over time? What are the different views of the universe that exist today? After they've examined that topic, students will learn about the basic building blocks of everything around us by understanding what appeared in the first moments after the Big Bang. They'll then learn how the early Universe evolved as it expanded and cooled. They'll hear the story of the first half million years of the Universe's existence and study some of the evidence that has convinced astronomers that this story is correct. This unit discusses topics normally studied within the disciplines of cosmology and nuclear physics. Students also will learn about the process of claim testing, which will help them evaluate claims and resources throughout the course as well as in other aspects of their lives.

**By the end of the unit, you should understand and be able to:**

- Explain the basics of the Big Bang Theory and the evidence that supports this theory.
- Use evidence and test claims.
- Explain why views of the universe have changed over time.
- Explain collective understanding
- Locate Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, and Hubble on a timeline and explain what each added to our collective understanding of the universe.
- Compare and contrast different modern religions' perceptions of the universe
- Discuss open-ended questions about the beginnings of the universe.

**Your assessments this unit will be:**

- An essay
- A discussion about what happened before the Big Bang



# Key Vocabulary

Vocab Word	Definition