THRESHOLD 2

STARS LIGHT UP

13.6

4.65

4 BILLION YEARS

Before stars existed, the Universe was relatively cool and uniform. Gravity brought together individual hydrogen and helium atoms to form gas clouds. Eventually these got so dense, they ignited as stars. Groups of stars formed galaxies. Galaxies formed galaxy clusters. Galaxy clusters formed superclusters. From that point on, the universe had billions and billions of long lasting energy sources.

INGREDIENTS & GOLDILOCKS CONDITIONS

Hydrogen & Helium

Gravity

Tiny variations in density

Temperatures > 10 million degrees Celsius

NEW COMPLEXITY

Stars

Galaxies

Galaxy clusters

Superclusters

QUESTIONS

How did early astronomers see the same things so differently, and what can that tell us about progress today?