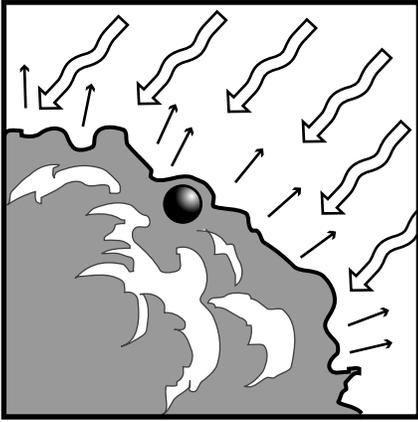
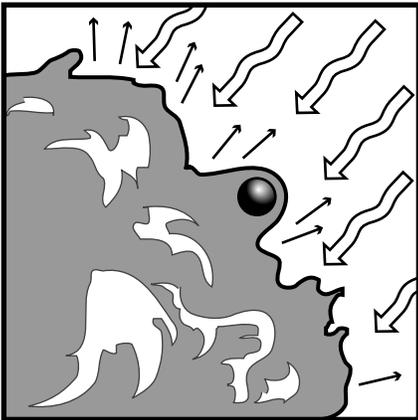


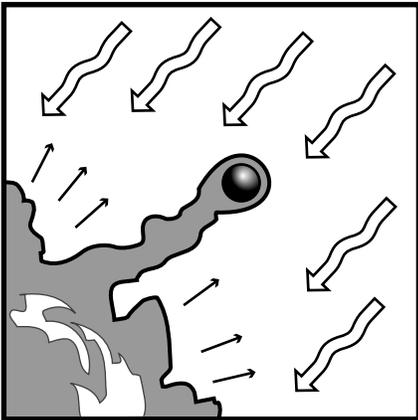
Stellar EGGs in M16



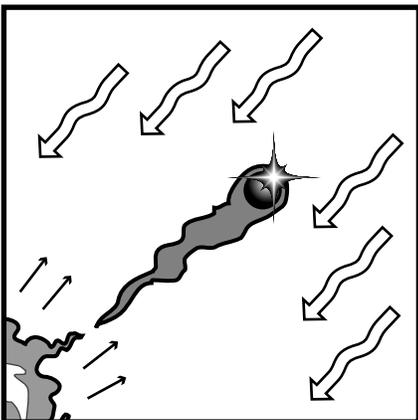
The surface of a molecular cloud is illuminated by intense ultraviolet radiation from nearby hot stars. The radiation evaporates material off of the surface of the cloud.



As the cloud is slowly eaten away by the ultraviolet radiation, a denser than average globule of gas begins to be uncovered



The EGG has now been largely uncovered. The shadow of the EGG protects a column of gas behind it, giving it a finger-like appearance.



Eventually the EGG may become totally separated from the molecular cloud in which it formed. As the EGG itself slowly evaporates, the star within is uncovered and may appear sitting on the front surface of the EGG.