Preprocessing

Modifies original program according to the directives that start with '#'

Compilation

The compiler translates the preprocessed source code into assembly code or an intermediate representation.

It checks syntax, performs semantic analysis, and generates an object file containing machine code.

Assembly

The assembler converts the object file into machine code specific to target architecture.

Linking

The linker combines object files with library files and resolves references between them

It generates a final executable file.