



Name: _____

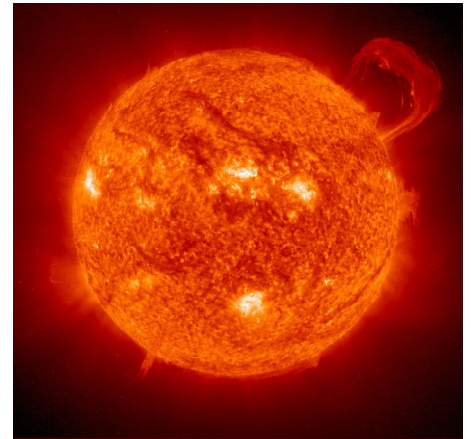
The Sun: Our Bright Star

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The Sun is the star at the center of our solar system. It's much larger than Earth, and it gives us light and heat, which are important for life. Without the Sun, Earth would be too cold for plants, animals, and people to live!

What Is the Sun Made Of?

The Sun is a huge ball of very hot gases, mostly hydrogen and helium. These gases are constantly moving and creating energy in a process called nuclear fusion. In nuclear fusion, tiny hydrogen atoms smash together to make helium and give off lots of energy. This energy creates the light and warmth that travel to Earth.



The sun

Why the Sun Looks Small

The Sun looks small in the sky, but that's because it's far away—about 93 million miles from Earth! If you could travel to the Sun in a fast spaceship, it would take many years to get there. Even though it's far away, the Sun's light reaches us in about 8 minutes.

The Sun's Layers

The Sun has different layers, each playing a role in creating energy and light:

Core: The center of the Sun, where nuclear fusion happens.

Radiative Zone: Energy moves slowly through this layer from the core.

Convective Zone: Hot gases rise here, cool, then sink down, moving energy up.

Photosphere: This is the surface we see, which looks like a bright ball in the sky.

Sunspots and Solar Flares

The Sun sometimes has dark spots on its surface called sunspots. These spots are cooler areas. Sometimes, the Sun also has solar flares, which are bursts of energy that shoot out from its surface. Solar flares are very powerful and can affect things like satellite signals on Earth.



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Fun Facts About the Sun

The Sun is over 4.5 billion years old and will keep shining for billions more.

It's much larger than Earth—over 1 million Earths could fit inside the Sun.

The Sun is a medium-sized star; some stars in space are much bigger!

Solar eclipses happen when the Moon blocks the Sun for a short time.

The Sun is an amazing star that makes life on Earth possible. It's full of energy, light, and heat, and it's important for our planet every single day.

1. What creates the light and heat from the Sun? _____

2. What layer of the Sun do we see? _____

3. Compare the size of the Sun with the size of the Earth? _____
