

Make Sun Art

Make marbled paper that looks like our Sun!

The Sun (also called Sol) is the star at the center of our Solar System. Scientists explore the Sun by sending spacecraft to observe it and discover more about its effects on Earth and the Solar System.



Materials Needed:

White paper (heavier paper such as watercolor paper or cardstock work best), wax paper or paper plate, shaving cream, red and orange food coloring, toothpicks or popsicle sticks, cardboard, scissors.

Instructions:

Step 1: Tape a square of wax paper to a flat surface.
If you are using a paper plate, skip this step.



Step 2: Spray shaving cream on the wax paper or paper plate. Make it circle shaped.

Step 3: Drop a few drops of red and yellow food coloring on the shaving cream. Use toothpicks or popsicle sticks to swirl the colors.

Step 4: Place a piece of white paper on top of the colored shaving cream, and press down lightly.

Step 5: Peel the paper off. Gently scrape off the remaining shaving cream with the edge of a cardboard piece.

Step 6: Let your artwork dry. Cut out the sun shape!



The Sun: Our Star

The Sun (also called Sol) is the star at the center of our Solar System. Its gravity holds the solar system together. The Sun's warmth and light make life possible on Earth.

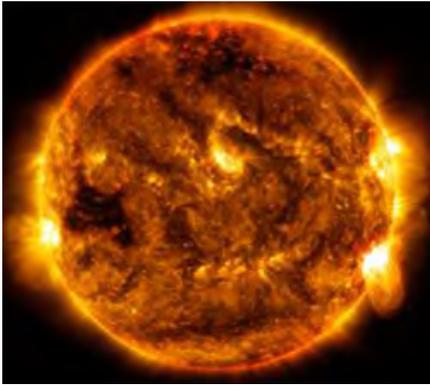


Image: NASA/SDO.

The Sun is a type of medium-sized star called a *yellow dwarf*. It is about 4.5 billion years old.

The Sun contains 99.8% of the matter in the Solar System.

The Sun is 109 times wider than the Earth and 330,000 times as massive. Over one million Earths could fit inside the Sun.

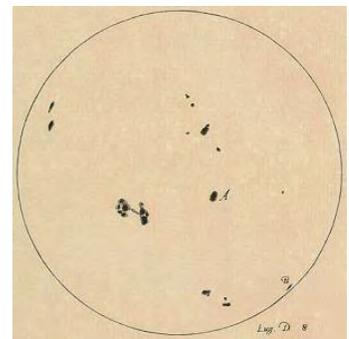
The Sun's gravity keeps everything in the Solar System in its orbit, including eight planets, at least five dwarf planets, tens of thousands of asteroids, and billions of comets.

The Sun is composed of hydrogen (70%) and helium (28%).

The temperature inside the Sun can reach 15 million degrees Celsius (27 million degrees Fahrenheit).

The Sun has a very strong magnetic field. Its surface sometimes has dark sunspots, which are areas of intense magnetic activity.

The Sun generates solar wind: a stream of charged particles traveling through the solar system at about 450 kilometers per second.



One of Galileo's 1613 sunspot drawings.

[Image: Rice University.](#)



Many spacecraft constantly observe the Sun, helping us keep an eye on space weather that can affect satellites and astronauts.

Left: Artist's conception of the Parker Solar Probe. Image: NASA.