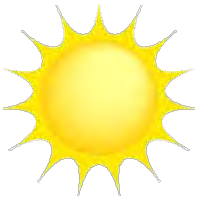
# Create Sun Art



## 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!

*Activity and images adapted from NASA SpacePlace: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-paper/en/](spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-paper/en/)*

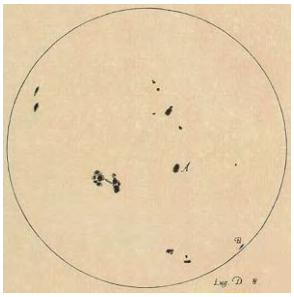
# Exploring The Sun From Far Away

**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.**

*Left: The Sun's surface. Image: NASA/SDO.*

We have been always been curious to learn more about the Sun, the brightest object we can see from Earth. However, no one has ever traveled to the Sun. Instead, people have developed ways to explore the Sun from far away.

For thousands of years, people around the world have observed the Sun. They have used the Sun's movements and the changes in the amount of sunlight to keep track of times and seasons. Civilizations such as the Babylonians and Chinese recorded their observations of solar eclipses and sunspots. In 1612, the astronomer Galileo observed sunspots through a telescope. Since then, scientists have continued to develop new tools to help them explore the Sun.



*One of Galileo's 1612 sunspot drawings. Image: Rice University.*

*Coronal loops on the Sun's surface. Image: NASA/TRACE.*

In the 20th and 21st centuries, scientists have sent spacecraft to study the Sun close-up. In 1990, the Ulysses probe orbited the Sun three times. It helped determine that the Sun's magnetic field reverses every 11 years. The Solar & Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) was launched in 1995 and is still operating over 25 years later!

In 2018, NASA launched the **Parker Solar Probe**, which will travel far closer to the Sun than any other spacecraft. The **Solar Orbiter**, which launched in 2020, will investigate the *heliosphere*, a giant bubble of charged particles and magnetic fields blown outward by the Sun. Together the Solar Orbiter and the Parker Solar Probe will help us explore the Sun in more detail than ever before.

*Artist's conception of the Solar Orbiter. Image: ESA/ATG medialab.*

**Follow the Solar Orbiter's journey to the Sun:**
**www.nasa.gov/solar-orbiter**

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM OF THE NORTH