

The Sun

Part I

Purpose

The purpose of these activities is to learn about the Sun.

Students will be able to

1. Describe the Sun in terms of its location in the solar system, composition, notable physical characteristics, etc.
2. Communicate effectively about the cultural significance of the Sun over time.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the Sun and the planet Earth.
4. Define and demonstrated an understanding of related vocabulary.
5. Describe a solar eclipse, and the progression by which one occurs.
6. Reflect on and summarize what is learned about the Sun in a creative way.

Important Vocabulary

Sun	star	solar	eclipse	sunspots
magnetosphere	heliosphere	photosphere	chromosphere	corona
Helios	Sol	solar wind	aurora	core
star	aphelion	perihelion	light	sundial

Solar Search

Students define Sun-related vocabulary, and use it to create their own word search, crossword puzzles, or a similar puzzle about the Sun. Then students complete a puzzle, selected at random from all of those created.

What Do You Know about the Sun?

Students fill in a KWL chart about the Sun, as a class. Then students read about the Sun, either online or from some other resource. Students briefly discuss important/key information, and add to their KWL charts.

*(** See below for printable activity sheet.)*

The History of the Sun

Students use the library and the internet to research the cultural significance of the Sun over time, with a focus on historical science.

Helpful Resources

The following print and internet resources might be useful in learning about the Sun.

BOOKS

1. The Sun by Robert Daily (1994)
2. The Sun by Gregory L. Vogt (1996)
3. The Sun and its Secrets by Isaac Asimov (1994)
4. The Sun: Our Nearest Star by Franklyn M. Branley (1998)

INTERNET

1. <http://www.nineplanets.org/sol.html>
2. <http://solar-center.stanford.edu/folklore/folklore.html>
3. <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.cfm?BenchmarkID=4&DocID=329>
4. <http://njnie.dl.stevens-tech.edu/curriculum/solar/solar.html>
5. <http://solar-center.stanford.edu/sun-earth/>
6. <http://hea-www.harvard.edu/scied/SUN/SunIntro.html>
7. <http://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/index.html>

KWL CHART

The Sun

<i>Know</i>	<i>Want to learn</i>	<i>Learned</i>