

The Sun

Part II

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

What Do You Know about the Sun?

Students continue to fill in the KWL chart about the Sun that was created in Part I. Then students discuss important/key information, reviewing the location, composition, and characteristics of the Sun, and touching on ideas about the relationship of the Sun to the planet Earth, and solar eclipses.

Sunshine on My Shoulder

Students creatively reflect on some aspect(s) of the Sun. Students write poems, essays, or short stories that summarize their learning; these can be accompanied by other forms of creative reflection (e.g. drawings, sculptures, etc.).

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>