

The Sun

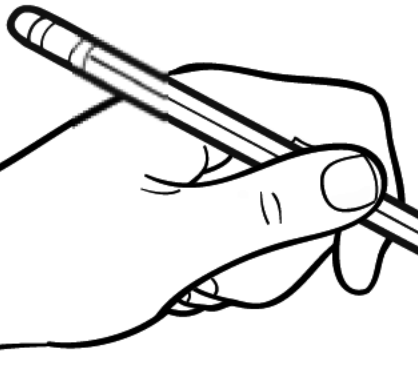
Reading Comprehension - Nonfiction

Instructions:

Read the passage and answer the questions below.

Helpful Hint:

Try reading the questions before you read the passage. That way, you'll know exactly what information to look for as you read! As you answer each question, go back to the text and underline where you found the answer.



The Sun

The sun is the center of our solar system. It is a star that is over four billion years old! It is bigger than the other stars in the sky because it is much closer. However, the sun is actually considered a medium-sized star.

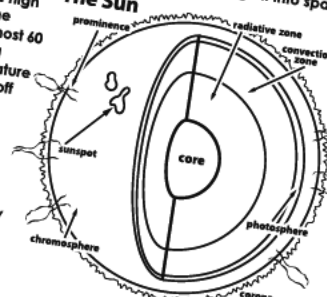
A star is a giant ball of gas. The gas burns at a high temperature. In fact, the surface of the sun is almost 60 times hotter than boiling water! The high temperature makes it glow and give off light. The sun's bright surface is called the photosphere. While there are billions of stars in the Milky Way and beyond, only the sun is in our solar system. In fact, it is the only thing in our solar system that creates light. Everything else gets its light from the sun. Earth, other planets, and objects in space all orbit, or move around, the sun. Without it, there would be no life on Earth. Plants and animals need sunlight to live and grow. If there were no sun, our solar system would be cold and dark.

The Sun

The sun is also very big. Over a million Earths could fit inside the sun! The planets orbit the sun because of its strong gravitational pull. This pull holds the planets in orbit and keeps them from flying off into space.

The energy we get from the sun starts at the core. Then it goes through the radiative zone, convection zone, and photosphere before finally going out into space. From there, it takes about eight minutes for light to reach Earth.

While the sun helps us on Earth in many ways, it can also harm us if we are not careful. Light from the sun can burn your skin if you are outside for too long. It can also hurt your eyes if you look directly at it or if you do not wear sunglasses. Because of these risks, experts recommend wearing sunscreen and preventing overexposure to the sun.



Questions

- The sun looks bigger than other stars because
Ⓐ it is considered a large-size star
Ⓑ millions of particles in the atmosphere float around the sun's corona
Ⓒ it is closer to Earth than other stars
Ⓓ it is at the center of the universe
- What keeps the planets from flying off into space?
Ⓐ Earth's gravitational pull
Ⓑ the sun's gravitational pull
Ⓒ the light the planets receive from the sun
Ⓓ sunspots
- Which is NOT a section of the sun?
Ⓐ chromosphere
Ⓑ convection zone
Ⓒ radiative zone
Ⓓ ozone layer
- How can the sun harm people on Earth?
Ⓐ It can hurt our eyes if we look at it.
Ⓑ It can release sunspots into the atmosphere.
Ⓒ It can burn people's skin.
Ⓓ Both A and C
- What is the main idea of the passage?

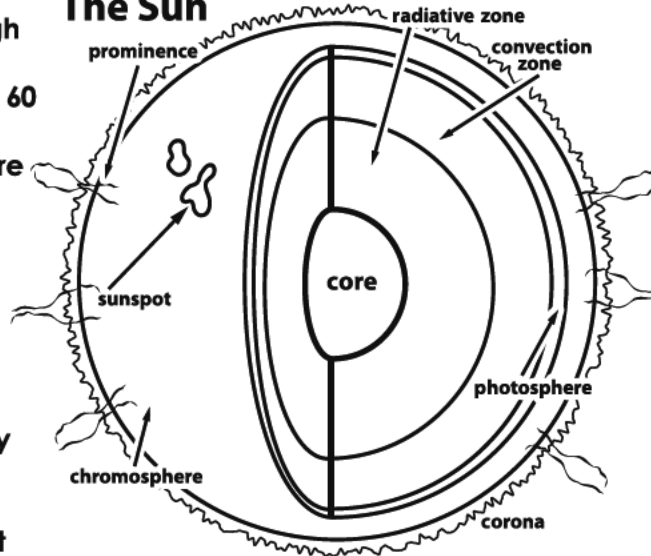
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Questions

- The sun looks bigger than other stars because _____.
A it is considered a large-size star
B millions of particles in the atmosphere float around the sun's corona
C it is closer to Earth than other stars
D it is at the center of the universe
- What keeps the planets from flying off into space?
A Earth's gravitational pull
B the sun's gravitational pull
C the light the planets receive from the sun
D sunspots
- Which is NOT a section of the sun?
A chromosphere B radiative zone
C convection zone D ozone layer
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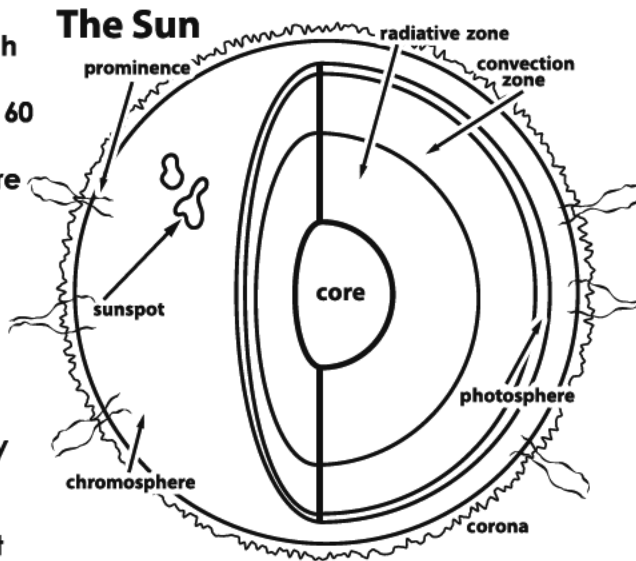
Answer Key

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The sun is the center of our solar system. It is a star that is over four billion years old! It looks bigger than the other stars in the sky because it is much closer. However, the sun is actually considered a medium-sized star.

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Possible answer: The sun is an important star and the center of our solar system.