

THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM

What is a solar system?

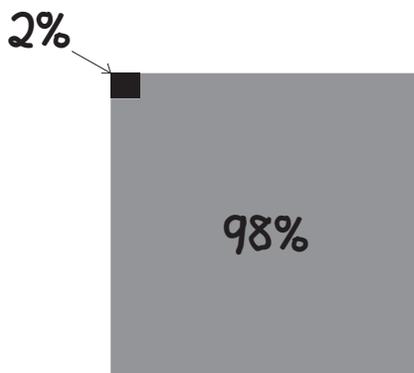
A solar system is a collection of celestial bodies (planets, moons) and other cosmic materials (asteroids, comets) that orbit around a central body called a star. There are millions of solar systems in the universe.



What do we know about the Sun and our solar system?

The Sun is the most important body in our solar system. It is roughly 92 million miles from earth and has a temperature of 11,000°F. It contains almost 98% of the total solar system mass. Think about it: 98% of the total mass! That means that the sun takes up 98% of the available room in the solar system. The earth, the moon, the other seven planets, comets, meteors, asteroids, and all other material make up the remaining 2% of the solar system mass. Wow!

Graph Showing Percentage of Mass



Sun Stats

TEMPERATURE 11,000°F

MILES FROM EARTH 92,000,000 miles

COMPOSED OF 92.0% Hydrogen
7.8% Helium
.2% Other

The Sun

Unscramble each word and then use the clues to solve the phrase below.

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5 9

PRESTEPHOHO

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8 2 6

MEHLUI

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3 10

DOGRYHNE

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7

SAG

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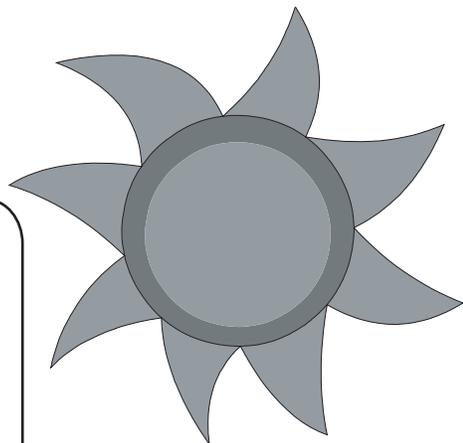
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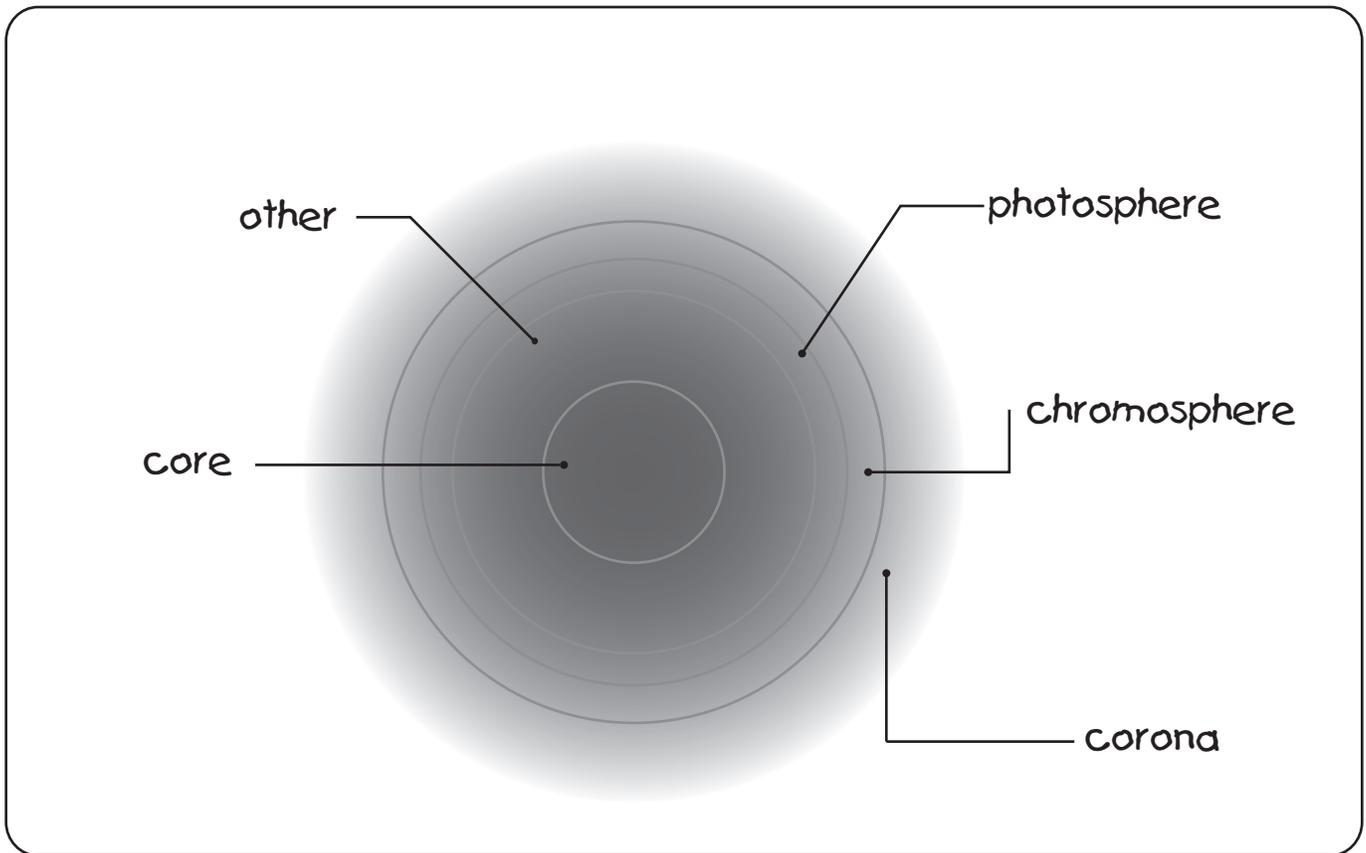
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How do we benefit from the sun?

The Sun!

The sun is a gaseous planet and is made of several different layers that do different things. Check out the diagram of the sun below.



Complete the following questions.

The sun is made of different _____ . The _____ , _____ , and _____ make up the outer layers of the sun. The sun is a _____ planet and takes up _____ % of the _____ in the solar system. Finally, the sun is mainly composed of the elements _____ and _____ .