West End Rigging

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QUEENSMERE OBSERVATORY SHOPPING CENTRE

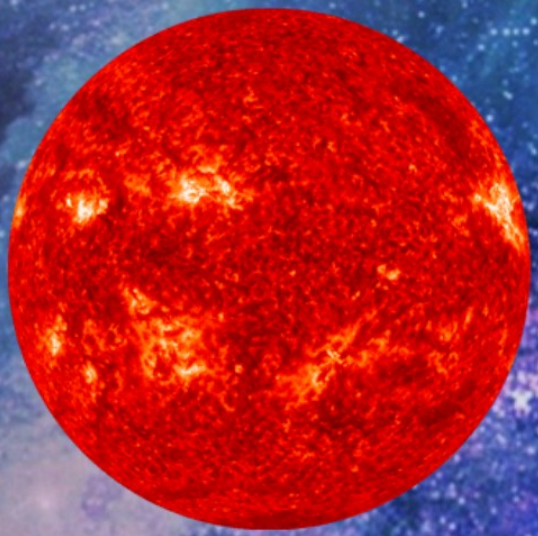
Sun Facts

The Sun is the heart of our solar system and its gravity is what keeps every planet and particle in orbit. This yellow dwarf star is just one of billions like it across the Milky Way galaxy. Our Sun is a normal main-sequence G2 star, one of more than 100 billion stars in our galaxy.

.Key Facts & Summary

- The Sun is by far the largest object in our solar system. It contains more than 99.8% of the total mass of the Solar System (Jupiter contains most of the rest).
- The Sun is an "ordinary" star. That's true in the sense that there are many others similar to it. But there are many more smaller stars than larger ones; the Sun is in the top 10% by mass. The median size of stars in our galaxy is probably less than half the mass of the Sun.
- The Greeks called the Sun Helios and the Romans called it Sol and been both worshipped and feared throughout history by a variety of cultures..
- The Sun is 870,000 miles (1.4 million kilometres) across. This is so big it is hard to imagine, but it would take more than one million Earths to fill the size of the Sun!
- The Sun is about 70% hydrogen and 28% helium by mass everything else ("metals") amounts to less than 2%. This changes slowly over time as the Sun converts hydrogen to helium in its core
- The Sun's power (about 386 billion billion mega Watts) is produced by nuclear fusion reactions.
- The surface of the Sun, called the photosphere, is at a temperature of about 5800 K. Sunspots are "cool" regions, only 3800 K (they look dark only by comparison with the surrounding regions). Sunspots can be very large, as much as 50,000 km in diameter. Sunspots are caused by complicated and not very well understood interactions with the Sun's magnetic field.
- The Sun's output is not entirely constant. Nor is the amount of sunspot activity. There was a period of very low sunspot activity in the latter half of the 17th century called the Maunder Minimum. It coincides with an abnormally cold period in northern Europe sometimes known as the Little Ice Age. Since the formation of the solar system the Sun's output has increased by about 40%.
- The Sun is about 4.5 billion years old. Since its birth it has used up about half of the hydrogen in its core. It will continue to radiate "peacefully" for another 5 billion years or so.
- The Sun is one of the millions of stars in the solar system. It is, however, larger than most (although not the biggest) and a very special star to us. Without the Sun there would be absolutely no life on Earth.
- As the Sun ages, it will get bigger. When this happens, it will consume some of the things close to it, and this includes Mercury, Venus and maybe even Earth and Mars. Luckily this is billions of years in the future.

https://nineplanets.org/



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