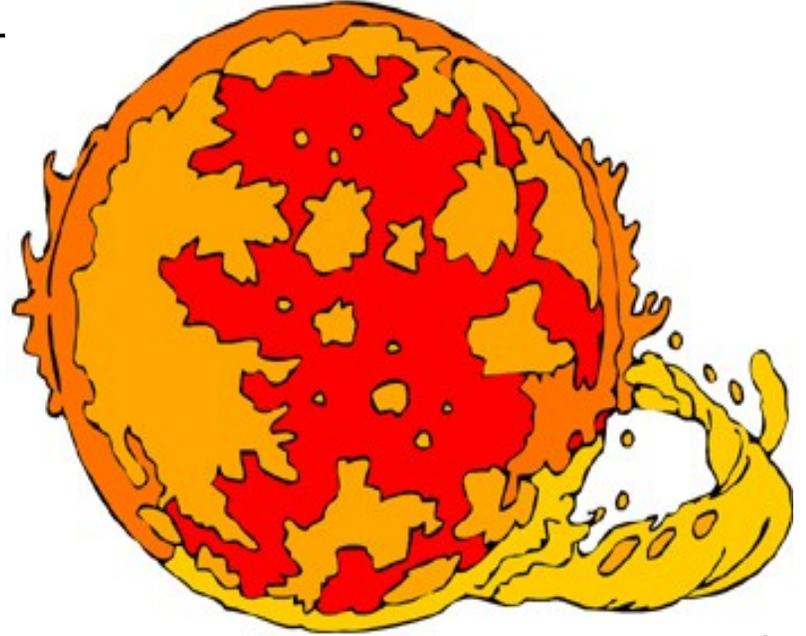


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Sun

by Cynthia Sherwood



You may have heard people use the term “solar energy.” They’re probably talking about the technology that powers a house or heats a swimming pool. But there’s only one place that you can find true “solar energy”—the sun!

Without the sun, there wouldn’t be life on earth. The sun provides us with both light and heat. It’s at the very center of our solar system, with all eight planets revolving around it. The planets’ moons, thousands of asteroids, and trillions of comets also revolve around the sun.

From earth, we see the sun as a bright yellow dot in the sky that’s sometimes hidden by clouds. But the sun is actually a glowing ball of fiery gas. The part of the sun that we see has a temperature of 10-thousand degrees Fahrenheit (5,600 degrees Celsius). Inside the sun, at its core, the temperature is 27-million degrees (15-million Celsius).

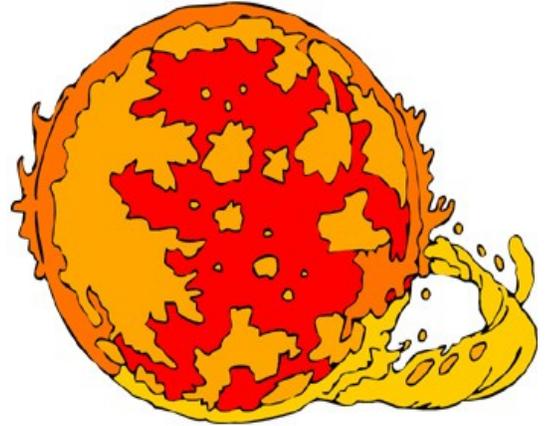
The core is where the sun’s incredible energy is created. The temperature is so extreme that nuclear reactions take place and energy travels to the surface of the sun. That energy is then released as light and heat. It takes a million years for energy produced in the sun’s core to reach its surface.

Besides being hotter than we can even imagine, the sun is amazingly big. You could fit more than a million Earths inside the sun! But believe it or not, the sun isn’t anywhere close to being the biggest object in the universe. The sun is actually a star, just like the others you see at night. It’s about average in size when compared to other stars. But to us here on earth, there’s nothing average about the sun!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Sun

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1. Where is the sun located?
- a. the center of the universe
  - b. the center of the galaxy
  - c. the center of the solar system
  - d. the center of the Earth

2. How hot is the sun's surface? How hot is the sun's core?
- 

3. The sun is....
- a. the largest known star
  - b. an average-sized star
  - c. a small star
  - d. the hottest known star

4. Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. solar energy

a. center, inside of a ball-shaped object

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. solar system

b. heat, light, or electrical power made from the sun

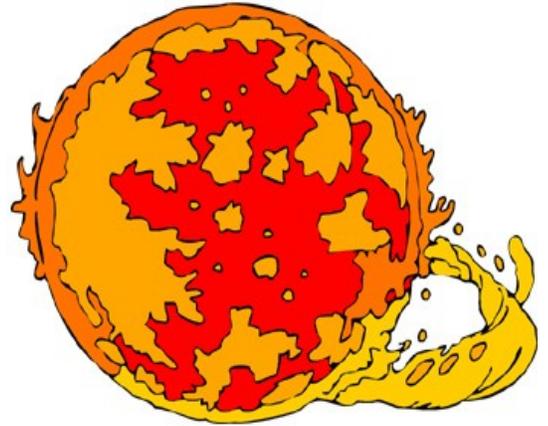
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. core

c. the sun, and all of the things that orbit around it

# ANSWER KEY

# The Sun

by Cynthia Sherwood



1. Where is the sun located? **c**
- a. the center of the universe
  - b. the center of the galaxy
  - c. **the center of the solar system**
  - d. the center of the Earth

2. How hot is the sun's surface? How hot is the sun's core?

**The sun's surface is 10-thousand degrees. The sun's core is 27-million degrees.**

3. The sun is.... **b**
- a. the largest known star
  - b. **an average-sized star**
  - c. a small star
  - d. the hottest known star

4. Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

**b** 1. solar energy

a. center, inside of a ball-shaped object

**c** 2. solar system

b. heat, light, or electrical power made from the sun

**a** 3. core

c. the sun, and all of the things that orbit around it