Marbled Sun Prints

Make marbled paper that looks like our Sun!

The Sun (also called Sol) is the star at the center of our Solar System. Our Sun is a burning ball of superheated gas. Even though it's 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) away, we can feel its heat and light on Earth.

Materials Needed:

White paper or cardstock, wax paper or paper plate, shaving cream, red and orange food coloring, toothpicks or popsicle sticks, scissors, ruler or piece of cardboard.

Instructions:

Step 1: Spray shaving cream on the wax paper or paper plate. Smooth it out with a ruler or piece of cardboard.

Step 2: Drop a few drops of red and yellow food coloring on the shaving cream. Use a toothpick or popsicle stick to swirl the colors.

Caution: Food coloring can stain clothing, skin, or surfaces.

Step 3: Place a piece of white paper or cardstock on top of the colored shaving cream, and press down lightly.

Step 4: Peel the paper off. Scrape off the remaining shaving cream with a ruler or the edge of a piece of cardboard.

Step 5: Let your artwork dry. Cut out the sun shape!

You can add more food coloring to the shaving cream, swirl the colors together, and make more prints. Each one will be unique!

Activity adapted from NASA SpacePlace: spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-paper/en/

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The Sun: Our Star

The Sun (also called Sol) is the star at the center of our Solar System. Its gravity holds the solar system together. The Sun's warmth and light make life possible on Earth.

Image: NASA/SDO.

The Sun is a type of medium-sized star called a *yellow dwarf*. It is about 4.5 billion years old.

The Sun contains 99.8% of the matter in the Solar System.

The Sun is 109 times wider than the Earth and 330,000 times as massive. Over one million Earths could fit inside the Sun.

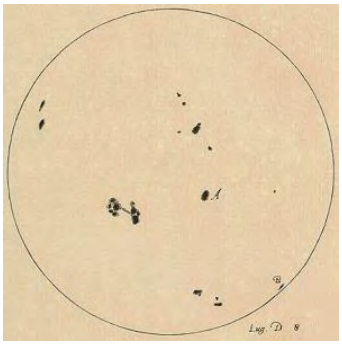
The Sun's gravity keeps everything in the Solar System in its orbit, including eight planets, at least five dwarf planets, tens of thousands of asteroids, and billions of comets.

The Sun is composed of hydrogen (70%) and helium (28%).

The temperature inside the Sun can reach 15 million degrees Celsius (27 million degrees Fahrenheit).

The Sun has a very strong magnetic field. Its surface sometimes has dark sunspots, which are areas of intense magnetic activity.

The Sun generates solar wind: a stream of charged particles traveling through the solar system at about 450 kilometers per second.



One of Galileo's 1613 sunspot drawings.
Image: Rice University.

Many spacecraft constantly observe the Sun, helping us keep an eye on space weather that can affect satellites and astronauts.

Left: Artist's conception of the Parker Solar Probe. Image: NASA.

Information from NASA: solarsystem.nasa.gov/solar-system/sun/in-depth/

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