

Can-U-Read

Our Sun

Our sun is a star like all the other stars in the sky.

It looks very big because it is so close.

The other stars are farther away, so they look smaller.

It's like how Daddy is bigger but you can cover him with your thumb close to your eye.

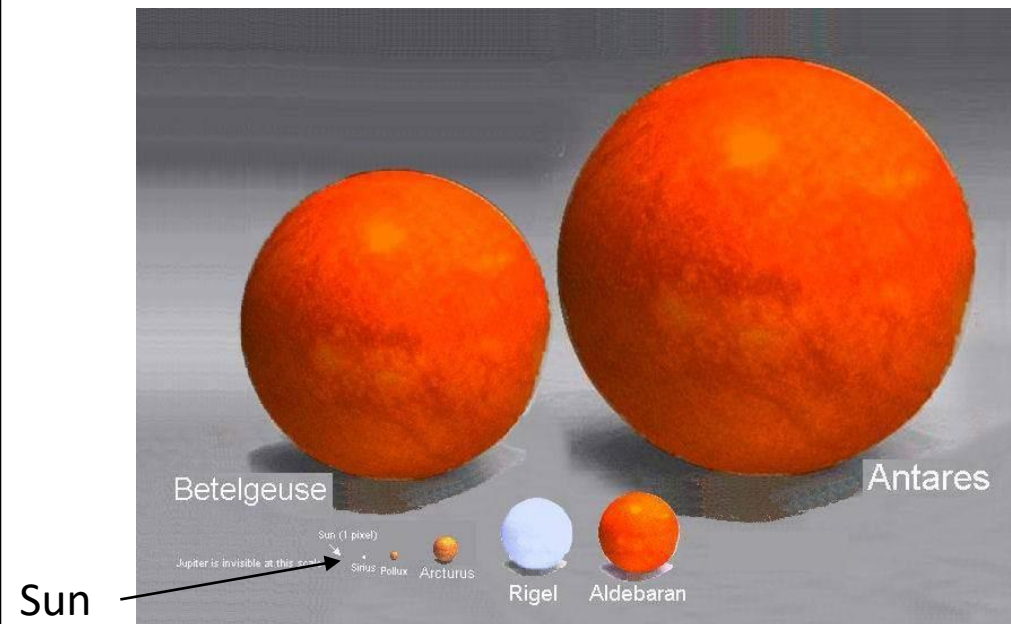
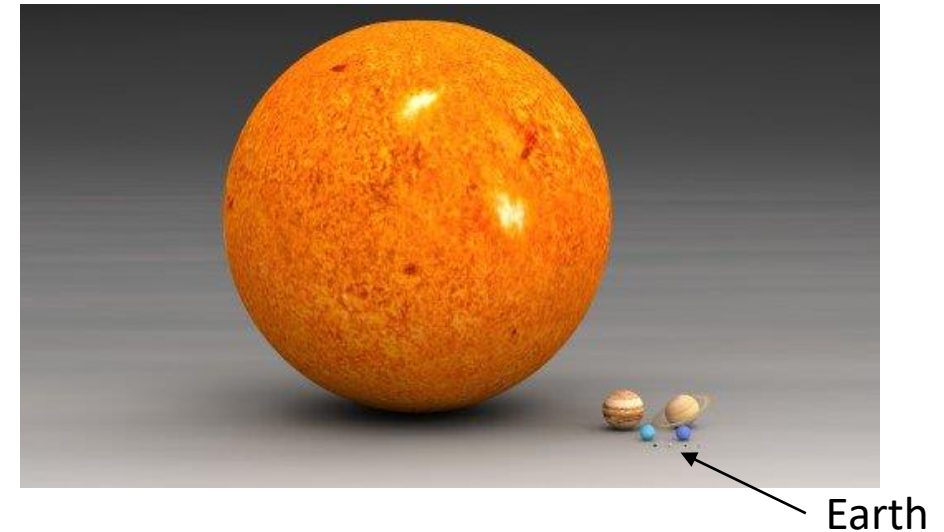


Among the planets, our sun looks very big.

It is much bigger than Earth or even Jupiter.

Among other stars, our sun is kind of small.

It is called a yellow dwarf

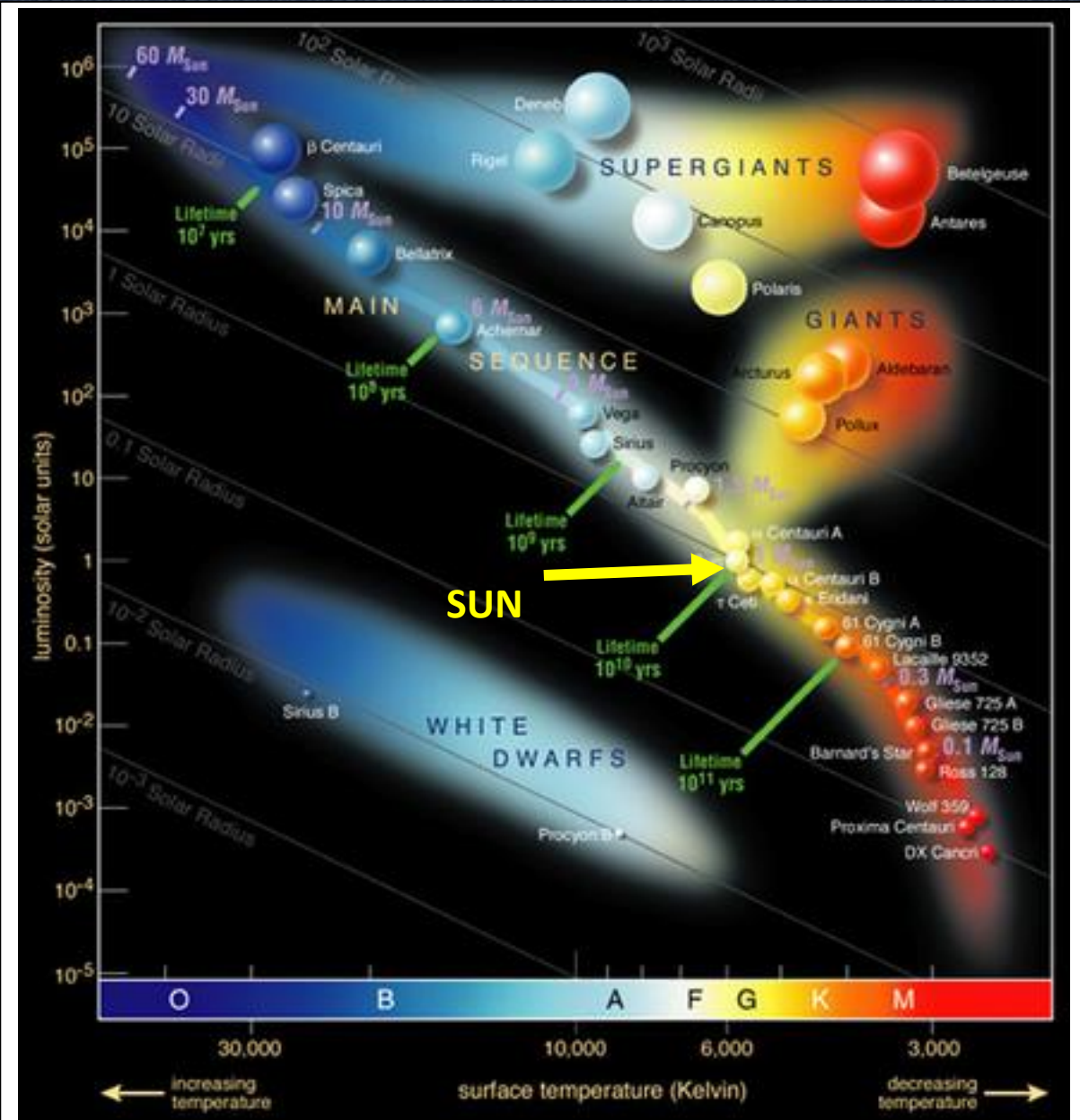


All the stars are sorted by how big they are, the light they make, and their color.

We measure our sun as 1 brightness, but lots of stars are thousands of times brighter.

Our star is a G star because it is yellow.

The hottest stars are blue.

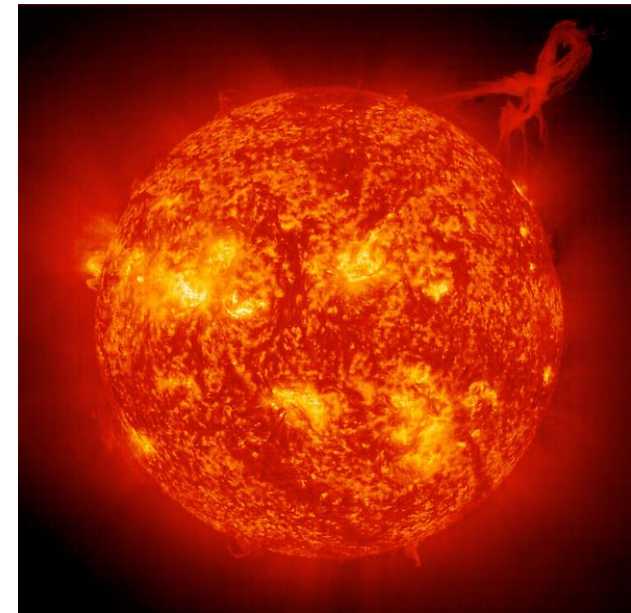


Still, our sun is not a nice kind yellow ball.

This is a fake story we tell little babies.

The sun does warm our planet, but it is also a dangerous thing.

Our sun is not a nice neighbor to have.

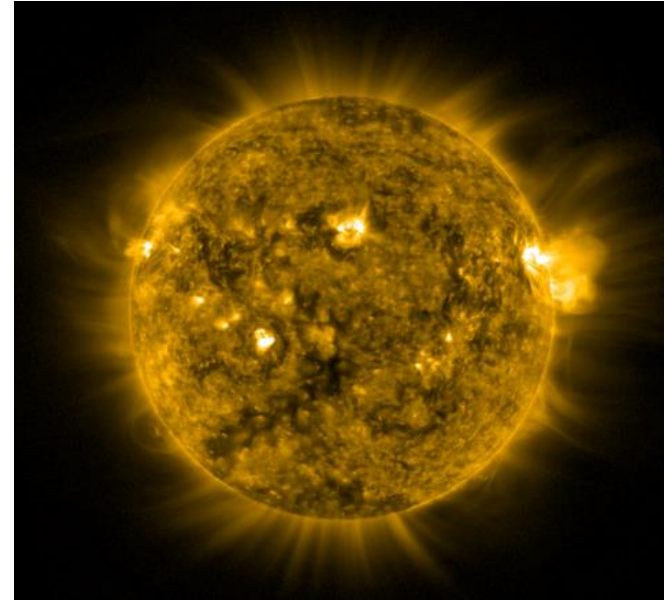


Our sun is a big nuclear bomb.

Every second it makes enough energy to blow up our planet.

Only a very little bit of that energy hits the earth.

A lot of it is deadly and would cook or kill us instantly.

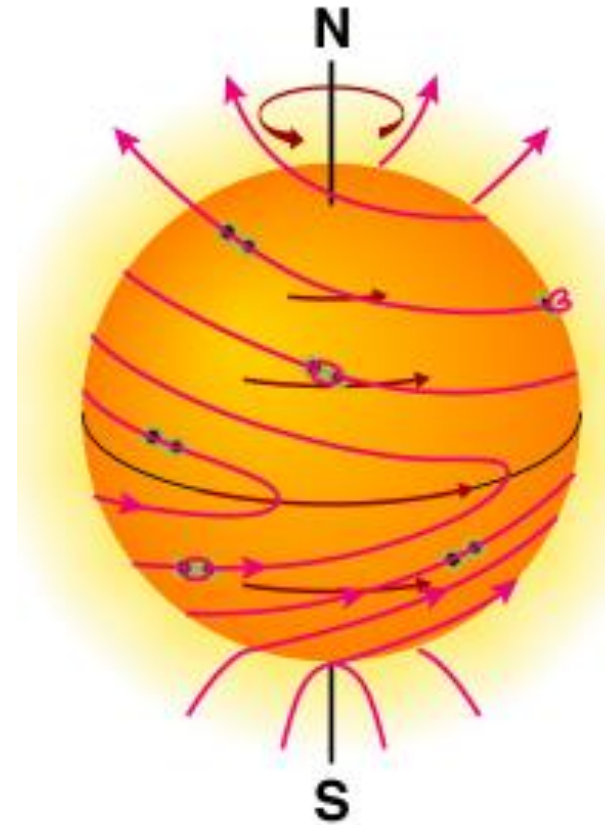


As our sun turns, it twists magnetic fields.

Those magnetic fields are dangerous.

Just like the girl's hair, magnetic fields spit out of the sun.

When they do, bad things happen.

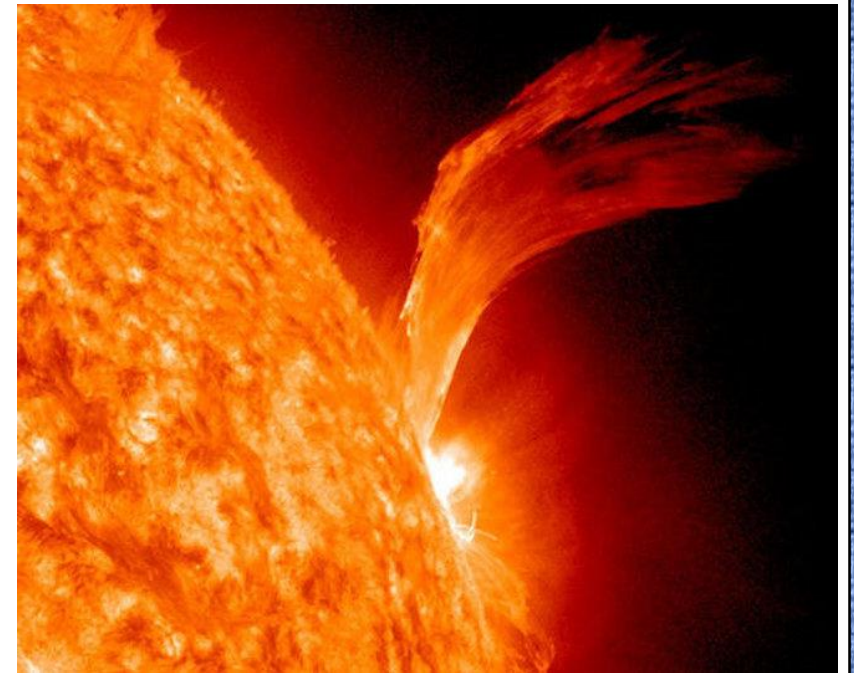
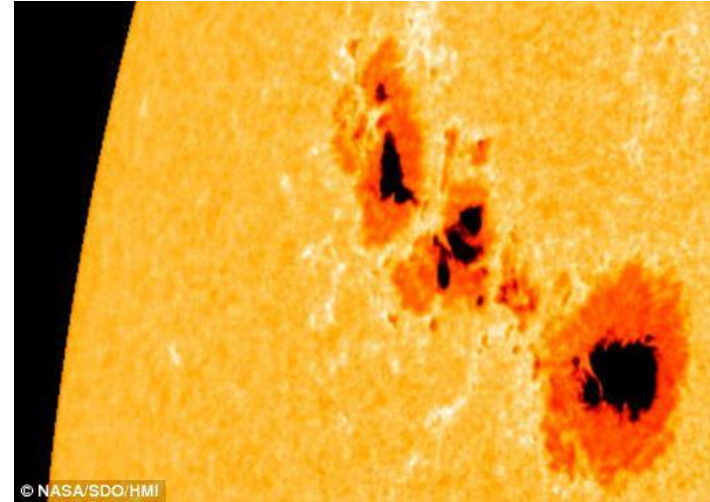


If the fields come out of the sun they make spots.

Because the energy left, these spots are darker than the rest of the sun.

Sometimes the magnetic fields pop and spit out material.

These solar flares are full of nasty things that can kill us.

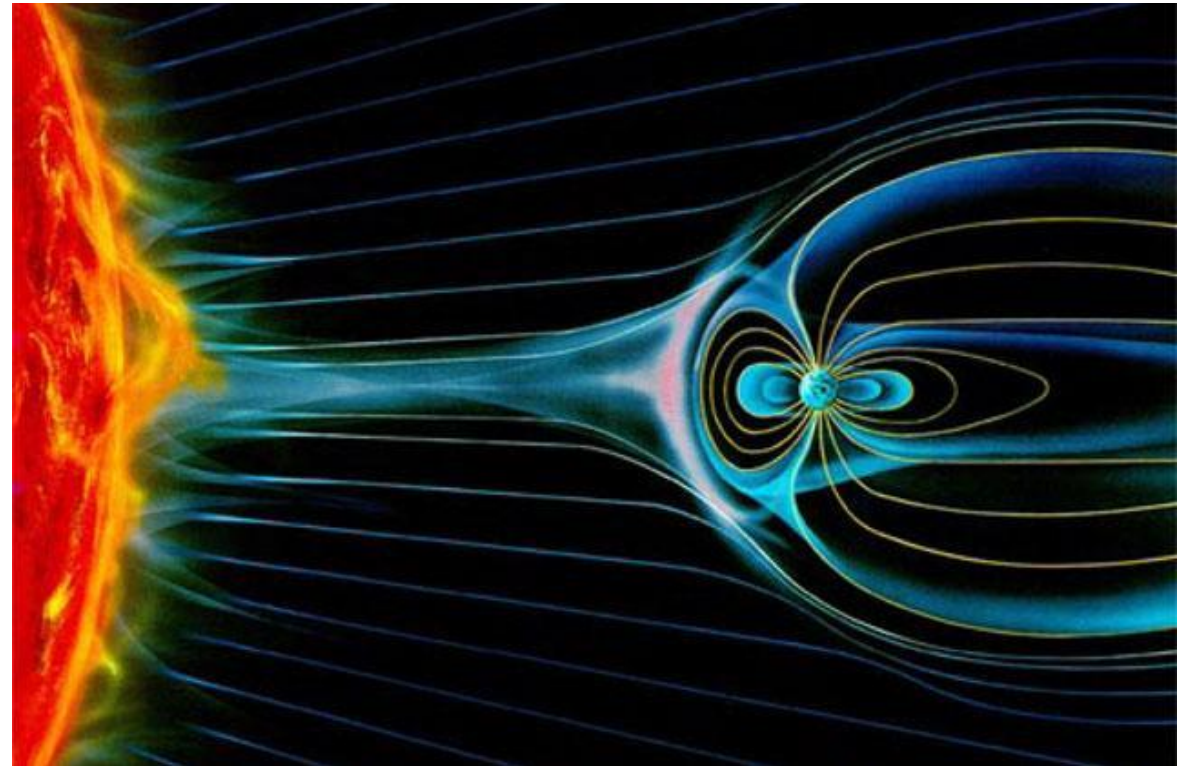


Thank goodness our earth protects us
from the sun.

We have a magnetic shield around us.

The warm sunlight gets through.

The mean blast of nuclear energy
can't get through.

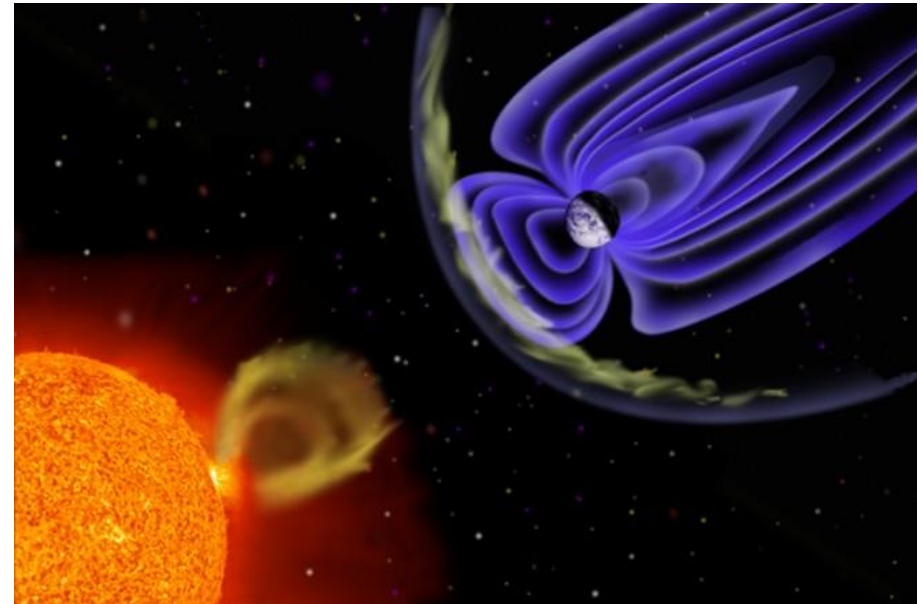


One day a big flare might hit our shield.

If it is too big it could cause problems.

Our electric lines would turn into antennas.

It would break a lot of computers on earth.



No one has figured out how to avoid this.

The last time it happened there were no computers on earth.

For now, we just get to see pretty lights.

But we have to remember how dangerous our lovely sun can be.



THE END

