



Sun Snaps!

High-Quality Images of Sun Taken

The Sun is the source of all life here on planet Earth and we have been fascinated by it for tens of thousands of years.

However, recent images have shown that there is always more to learn about our nearest star.

Recently taken photos of the Sun are the highest quality images ever taken of it. The astonishing new images have allowed scientists to spot something new.

Strands of hot electrified gasses were seen for the first time in the new photos by **researchers** from the **University** of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in Preston, UK and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Alabama, USA.

Dr Amy Winebarger, from the MSFC stated that the images "give us a remarkable insight into the Sun's atmosphere."

The images were taken using a specially designed **telescope**. It was strapped to a rocket and flown up to the edge of space in

What is the Sun?

- **The Sun is the star in our Solar System.**
- **1.3 million planet Earths could fit inside the Sun.**

Illustration: Scientists have taken high-resolution pictures of the Sun.

order to get clearer images.

By studying these images, it could help us to better understand how energy flows through the Sun.

It could even help us to better understand how energy travels "down to Earth itself", said UCLan researcher Tom Williams.

He went on to say, "This is so important if we are to model and predict the behaviour of our life-giving star."

Glossary

strands	Thin lengths or threads of a material.
researchers	People who carefully investigate something.
university	A place of learning at the highest level.
telescope	A tool for making distant objects appear larger.

- Tick the definition which most closely describes her use of the phrase 'a remarkable insight'.

- ☐ The images of the Sun are really pretty.
- ☐ The images don't show much about the Sun.
- ☐ The images give them a deeper understanding of the Sun.
- ☐ The images allow us to see the Sun up close whenever we want.

- | | Fact | Opinion |
|---|------|---------|
| The Sun is the most amazing thing in our Solar System. | | |
| Learning about the Sun is important. | | |
| The images allowed scientists to view the Sun in very high detail. | | |
| The images allowed scientists to learn new information about the Sun. | | |

Answers

1. How many planet Earths would fit inside the Sun?

1.3 million

2. 'Dr Amy Winebarger, from the MSFC stated that the images "give us a remarkable insight into the Sun's atmosphere." '

Tick the definition which most closely describes her use of the phrase 'a remarkable insight'.

- ☐ The images of the Sun are really pretty.
- ☐ The images don't show much about the Sun.
- ☒ **The images give them a deeper understanding of the Sun.**
- ☐ The images allow us to see the Sun up close whenever we want.

3. In which two countries were the researchers based who made this discovery?

the UK and the USA

4. Why did they launch the telescope to the edge of space?

Accept an answer which refers to it allowing them to get better quality images.

5. Tick to show whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
The Sun is the most amazing thing in our Solar System.		✓
Learning about the Sun is important.		✓
The images allowed scientists to view the Sun in very high detail.	✓	
The images allowed scientists to learn new information about the Sun.	✓	

6. Summarise the article in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary that refers to the story, e.g. Scientists have spotted strands of hot electrified gas for the first time thanks to very high-quality photos.