

## Some Basic Facts About the Sun (an “average” star)

- Average distance from Earth: About 92 million miles
- Diameter (visible surface): About 858,000 miles
- Composition (by mass): 70% Hydrogen, 28% Helium, 2% all others
- Rotation Period (at equator): 25 earth days (equator), 34 days (poles)
- Mass (weight): 334,400 earth masses Surface Gravity: 27.9 times earth gravity
- Surface Temperature: 8,100° to 12,300° F
- Central Temperature: 27,000,000° F !!
- Corona Temperature: (Outer Atmosphere), 1,800,000 to 9,000,000° F !!
- Energy Output:  $3.9 \times 10^{23}$  kW (almost one trillion, trillion 40W light bulbs!!)
- Source of Energy: Nuclear Fusion (Hydrogen fuses to helium)

# Internet Resources for Monitoring the Sun

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- [Solar and Heliospheric Observatory \(SOHO\)](#)
  - [Global Oscillation Network Group \(GONG\):](#)
  - [NOAA Space Weather](#)
  - [Solar Dynamics Observatory](#)
  - [Big Bear Solar Observatory](#)
  - [U.S. National Solar Observatory](#)
  - [STEREO \(A & B solar satellites\)](#)
  - [NASA - Understanding the Magnetic Sun](#)
  - [Daniel Inouye Solar Telescope](#)