

Grade 3

Star Power



Discover the power and magnitude of our Sun—the star that provides light and heat energy essential for life on Earth. Using sun print paper and UV beads, students observe engaging evidence that sunlight is an energy source capable of causing changes in matter. Radiometers are used for further exploration of light as a source of energy capable of doing work and causing movement, as well as introducing the concepts of absorption and reflection of light.

Students learn about the characteristics of the Sun by creating scale models to experience the vast size of the Sun and its distance from Earth. The twirly, swirly surface of the Sun is modeled, complete with sunspots. The importance and uses of the Sun's energy are explored by observing its effects on plants and solar water heaters. Student learning is assessed by further research and the development of a product to demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics and importance of our star, the Sun.

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