

Helping you choose books for children



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Opening extract from

See Inside Planet Earth

Written by

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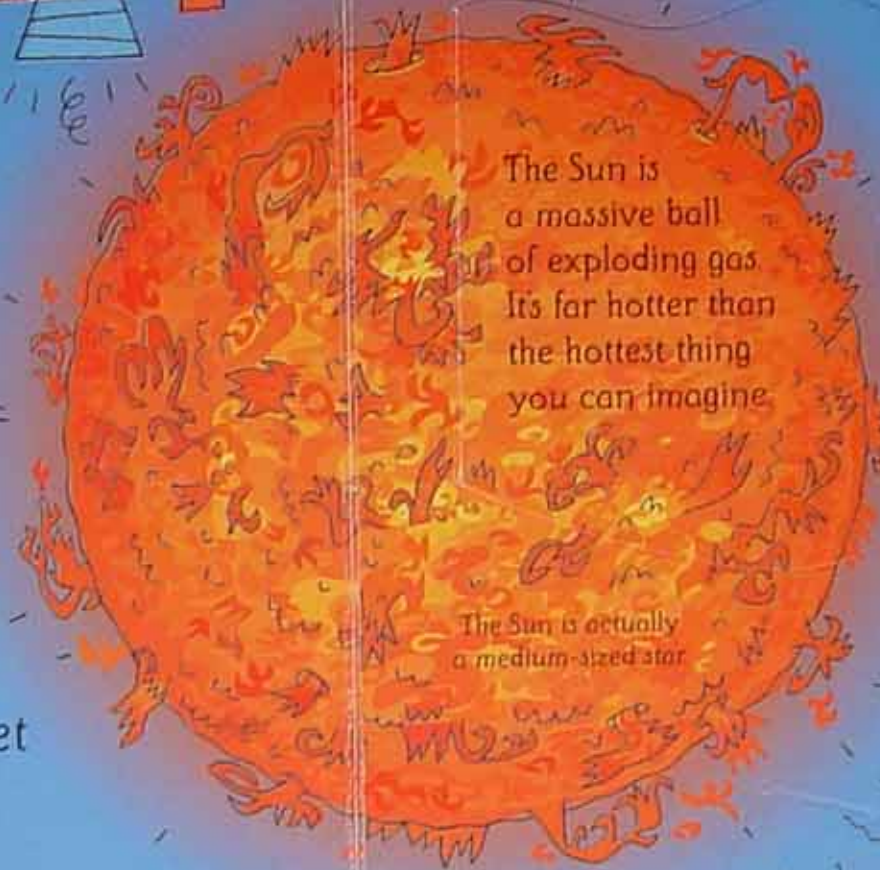
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Earth in space

Our Earth is one of eight planets that circle the Sun. Together they are known as the solar system. Life on Earth couldn't exist without the Sun's heat and light.



Mercury and Venus, the planets nearest the Sun, are VERY hot.



It takes the Earth 365 days to travel around the Sun.



Many planets have moons spinning around them.

The hottest stars are blue, the coldest ones are red, but they are all INCREDIBLY hot.

Many stars are millions of light years away.

The solar system is just a tiny part of a huge universe.

Distances in space are so vast, they are measured in light years. A light year is the distance light travels in a year – 95 trillion km or 6 trillion miles.

There is evidence of water on Mars, which may mean there's life there too.

Mars



Asteroids are large lumps of rock or metal that whizz around the Sun.

Saturn is surrounded by rings of dust and rock.

Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system.

Expert: Dr Julia Jones
Lecturer in Conservation Biology at the School of the Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wales, Bangor

A blanket of gases

We can live on Earth because it's surrounded by a blanket of gases, known as the atmosphere.

The Sun gives off an enormous amount of energy, including heat and light.

Energy from the Sun

More energy from the Sun

Further away from Earth the atmosphere gets thinner until it fades away

Shooting stars are actually rocks falling from space

An ultra-violet (UV) ray

A layer of gas, known as the ozone layer, absorbs harmful UV rays from the Sun.

The ozone layer

Under the hot Sun, water evaporates. It rises into the sky and turns into clouds of tiny water droplets.

A shooting star

The atmosphere gives us air to breathe and water to drink.

Heat from the Sun generates winds, ocean currents and all of our weather

Other planets have atmospheres too, but it would be almost impossible to live on them.

This satellite circles around the Earth collecting information about the weather.

The International Space Station is a floating home for astronauts.

A space shuttle takes astronauts to the space station.

The atmosphere contains gases, known as greenhouse gases, that help keep the Earth warm.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and water vapour are the main greenhouse gases.

Without any greenhouse gases...

The Earth's atmosphere is finely balanced. Any changes to this balance will make it harder to live on Earth.