

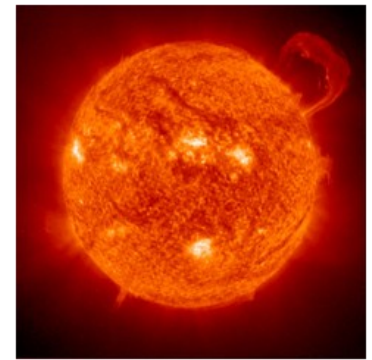


SUN

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The Center Of All

The sun of our Solar System is a star. Is a huge ball of hot, glowing gasses. It's about 333,000 times the mass of the Earth; the sun contains about 99.8 percent of all the mass of the solar system. Heat and light from this average-size star travel a mean distance of 92.96 million miles to reach Earth and support all life on our planet.



Questions

What is solar prominence?

Solar prominence is a bright gas formation that blasts from the sun's surface and is held in place by the sun's magnetic field. Prominences often form into loops that can be thousands of miles high and can persist on months. Their cause is not fully understood.

What is a solar flare?

A solar flare is a sudden, violent explosion from the sun's surface. These events are usually short-lived but can release enormous amounts of gas and high energy particles and may reach temperatures of millions of degrees. Some can disrupt communication on Earth.