

The sun's activity

This Science to gather data about the sun on your own! The spotter gives you the chance to observe the sun's activity and to record the data. The spotter also gives you the chance to observe the sun's activity and to record the data. The spotter also gives you the chance to observe the sun's activity and to record the data.

Predict what you will see when you look through the spotter.
Observe the image in the Sunspotter.

What did you notice?

Describe the sun's activity and record the data in the table below.

Was there any sunspots? If so, how many? How many in a group?

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What color does the sun seem to be?

How would you describe the edge of the sun? Is it sharp or fuzzy?

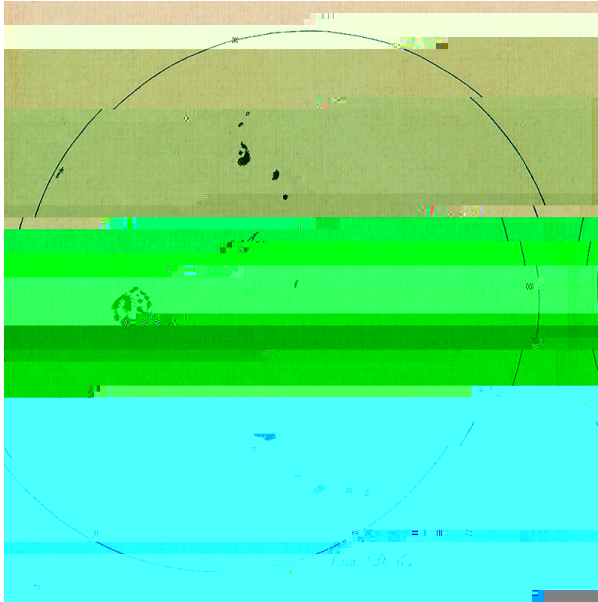
Can you see any bright spots on the sun's surface?

Did you see any clouds or birds or airplanes cross the sun's image?

Do you think you would see the same thing in an hour? A day? A month? A year?

Discover Galileo

There were no cameras when Galileo discovered sunspots. All images of the sun had to be hand drawn. Galileo was the first person to record sunspots and their motion and realize this meant the sun was moving on its own axis. Below are two of his drawings of sunspots from 1610. Sunspots move across the face of the sun.



What do you notice about the two images? These observations are one day apart: July 5th. Can you remember the image to see how the sunspots change over time? What are some of your observations?

Try drawing your own fresh sketch of what you see in the camera.

Pre-draw the circle of the sun on your paper.

Sooner than you know it, you'll have a circle that's gone so far that it moves too far.

Look at the image and draw any spots you see.

Take time to note the relative position of the sun.

Record the time of day and date you're drawing.

You may have to erase and redraw parts of the sun, but since it doesn't