

BACK TO NATURE



CENTER for
AQUATIC
SCIENCES

at Adventure Aquarium

www.aquaticsciences.org

#casbacktonature #casnatureplay

Here Comes the Sun

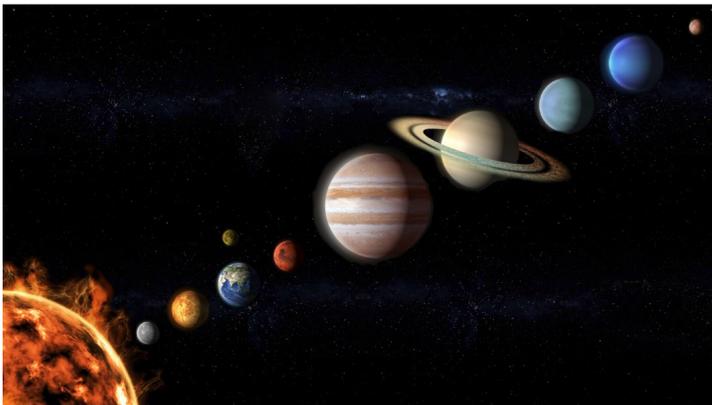
Awfully Bright for Just a star

Scientists think that the sun is about 4.6 billion years old! The sun is actually a star, in fact, it is the only star in our solar system. Most stars are so far away that they seem incredibly small but they are quite large. Our sun is as wide as 110 Earths combined. The Earth is the perfect distance from the sun. If Earth was any closer to the sun it would be too hot for life to survive because the temperature of the sun is 9941 degrees Fahrenheit. If the Earth was farther away from the sun the Earth would be too cold for life to survive.

The sun has been the major energy source for the living things on Earth. Most plants and animals need the sun to survive.

For more information about the sun visit:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/sun/>



Sunscreen: Protect yourself and the planet

Spending too much time in the sunlight can come at a cost and no one likes sunburn. Sunscreen is important to keep your skin healthy but it actually can be harmful to plants and animals who live in the water, especially coral. Did you know that some places like Hawaii and Key West, Florida have banned businesses from selling sunscreens with ingredients that are harmful to the coral reefs of their shores?

[Check this list of coral-safe sunscreens.](#)

Take a photo of your sun dial or sun print and share on Facebook and Instagram using these hashtags:
#casbacktonature #casnatureplay



Go Outside

There are so many things to do outside, but here are two ways you might not have thought about.

SUN DIAL

Sun dials have been used for millennia to help tell the time. All you need is 12 rocks or shells, a stick or pencil, and some clay.

1. Take the piece of clay and make a ball. Stick the pencil into the clay. Allow the clay to dry.
2. Take your clay and pencil to an outdoor location that is sunny all day.
3. Each hour, on the hour between 7 am and 7 pm, mark with a new rock or shell where the shadow falls.
4. Optional: With a permanent marker write the time on the rocks.



SUN PRINTING

Using [Sun paper](#) or dark construction paper, you can use the sun to make beautiful works of art.

Gather heavy items such as rocks and sticks. Make a design using the heavy items on top of the paper. Allow the paper to sit on a flat surface in the sunlight for 5 or more hours, the longer you allow it to sit the better the results will be.