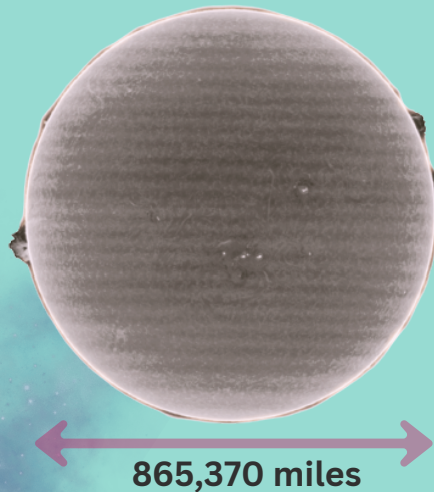


THE SUN SOL

The Sun is an enormous ball of hot plasma with a surface temperature of 5,600 C and a core temperature of 15,000,000 C. It is 865,370 miles wide, making it 109 times the width of the Earth. It's volume is so great, 1.3 million Earths could fit inside it.

Light is the fast thing in the Universe, yet given the distance to the Sun, 93 million miles, it still takes light 8 minutes to reach us. Any day light you see and the heat you feel from the Sun left it 8 minutes previously.



The Sun was born from a cloud of hydrogen like all other stars and consumes this at a rate of ~600 million tons a second, turning it into ~540 million tons of helium. When the hydrogen runs out in 4.5 billion years, it will swell up to a red giant and start to use the helium fuel but at a much faster rate. Eventually our local star will become a planetary nebula like the Dumbbell Nebula.

