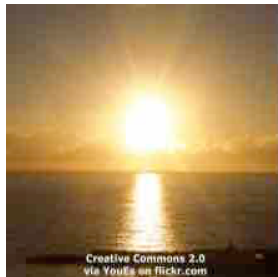


Scientists take sharpest-ever photos of the Sun

13th August 2026



Astronomers have taken the best-ever photos of the Sun. A team of researchers used a solar telescope at the U.S. National Science Foundation in Hawaii. The researchers took very detailed images of the Sun's surface. The pictures show

amazing new details about what is happening on the solar surface. In particular, the scientists pointed out hundreds of spiralling areas of activity, which look like twisters of fire. These might explain a lot about the Sun's energy and how solar flares are created. Astronomer Dr David Boboltz was excited about the photos. He called the Sun a "unique laboratory". He said: "It's our closest star, and it can help us understand some very basic laws of physics."

The new high-resolution images are the closest ever that scientists have zoomed in on the Sun. The photographs show a 5,000-km-wide area of our closest star. Scientists are particularly interested in photos that show what happens at the borders between the dark and bright regions of the Sun. This is where huge spirals of fire are created. It happens when two fluids move at different speeds and meet, causing a build-up of energy. A similar thing happens on Earth, but with ocean water, not fire. You can see this in ocean waves. Dr Boboltz said: "Once there's enough energy, it can then be released as a solar flare." He said the photos could help us to "figure out and eventually predict space weather".

Sources: aps.org / space.com / bbc.com

Writing

We need to spend a lot more money on researching the Sun. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

astronomers / photos / the Sun / solar surface / scientists / laboratory / star / physics / zoom in / spirals / fluids / energy / ocean / fire / Earth / solar flare / space weather

True / False

- 1) Astrologists have taken the most close-up photos of the Sun ever. T / F
- 2) Researchers used a telescope in Hawaii to take the photos. T / F
- 3) Researchers found hundreds of things that looked like fire twisters. T / F
- 4) A researcher said studying the Sun helps us learn about physics. T / F
- 5) Researchers zoomed in 5,000 times to get the photos. T / F
- 6) There's a lot of activity at the border of light and dark areas of the Sun. T / F
- 7) Spirals of fire are created when fluids moving at different speeds meet. T / F
- 8) An astronomer said the photos could help predict weather on Earth. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. detailed | a. special |
| 2. created | b. understand |
| 3. unique | c. especially |
| 4. closest | d. simple |
| 5. basic | e. made |
| 6. images | f. complete |
| 7. particularly | g. liquids |
| 8. fluids | h. comparable |
| 9. similar | i. nearest |
| 10. figure out | j. pictures |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you like to be an astronomer?
- c) How important is astronomy?
- d) What do you like to zoom in on?
- e) What kinds of photographs do you like?
- f) What will happen to the Sun in the future?
- g) What do you think space weather is like?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the astronomers?

Phrase Match

1. researchers used a solar
 2. researchers took very detailed images
 3. scientists pointed out hundreds
 4. It's our closest
 5. Help us understand some very basic
 6. new high-resolution
 7. scientists have zoomed
 8. Scientists are particularly
 9. You can see this in ocean
 10. figure out and eventually predict space
- a. images
 - b. laws of physics
 - c. interested in photos
 - d. star
 - e. weather
 - f. of the Sun's surface
 - g. waves
 - h. telescope
 - i. in on the Sun
 - j. of spiralling areas

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of astronomy?
- b) When was the last time you looked through a telescope?
- c) What do you know about the Sun's surface?
- d) What do you think of the Sun?
- e) What is good and bad about the Sun?
- f) What do you think of the word 'solar'?
- g) In what way is the Sun a 'unique laboratory'?
- h) What do you know about physics?

Spelling

1. researchers used a solar etopsecle
2. what is happening on the solar creasuf
3. spiralling areas of iycttiav
4. solar reflsa
5. a ienquu laboratory
6. basic laws of iyhsspc
7. scientists have odmzoe in on the Sun
8. scientists are aalpcuriltyr interested
9. the dark and bright seoigrn of the Sun
10. two ifsdul move at different speeds
11. coane waves
12. detcrip space weather

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. d
6. j	7. c	8. g	9. h	10. b

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Who took the photos?
2.	What was used to take the photos?
3.	What does the article say there are hundreds of in the photos?
4.	What unique thing did an astronomer call the Sun?
5.	What basic things can the photos of the Sun help us to understand?
6.	What kind of area do the photos cover?
7.	What is at the borders that scientists are interested in?
8.	What is there a build-up of fluids meet?
9.	What is released when there is enough energy on the Sun?
10.	What might the photos help us to predict?

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The Sun
- Black holes
- The Moon
- Asteroids
- Satellites
- Comets
- Mars
- Comets

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.