

Anatomy of the Sun

(Color the picture below)

Convection Zone

An area where hot gasses rise from the bottom and gradually cool as they approach the surface. Cooler gasses sink, forming a conveyor loop.

Photosphere

The visible surface of the sun; the inner layer of the sun's atmosphere that gives off visible light.

Chromosphere

A thin layer, the sun's equivalent of an atmosphere.

Convection Zone

(The outermost layer of the sun's interior)

Radiation Zone

Consists of tightly packed gasses with energy produced mostly by electromagnetic radiation. This area is so dense that it can take more than 100,000 years for energy to move through it.

Core

Core:

The sun's nuclear reactor, with temperatures ranging from about 15 to 30 million degrees Celsius.

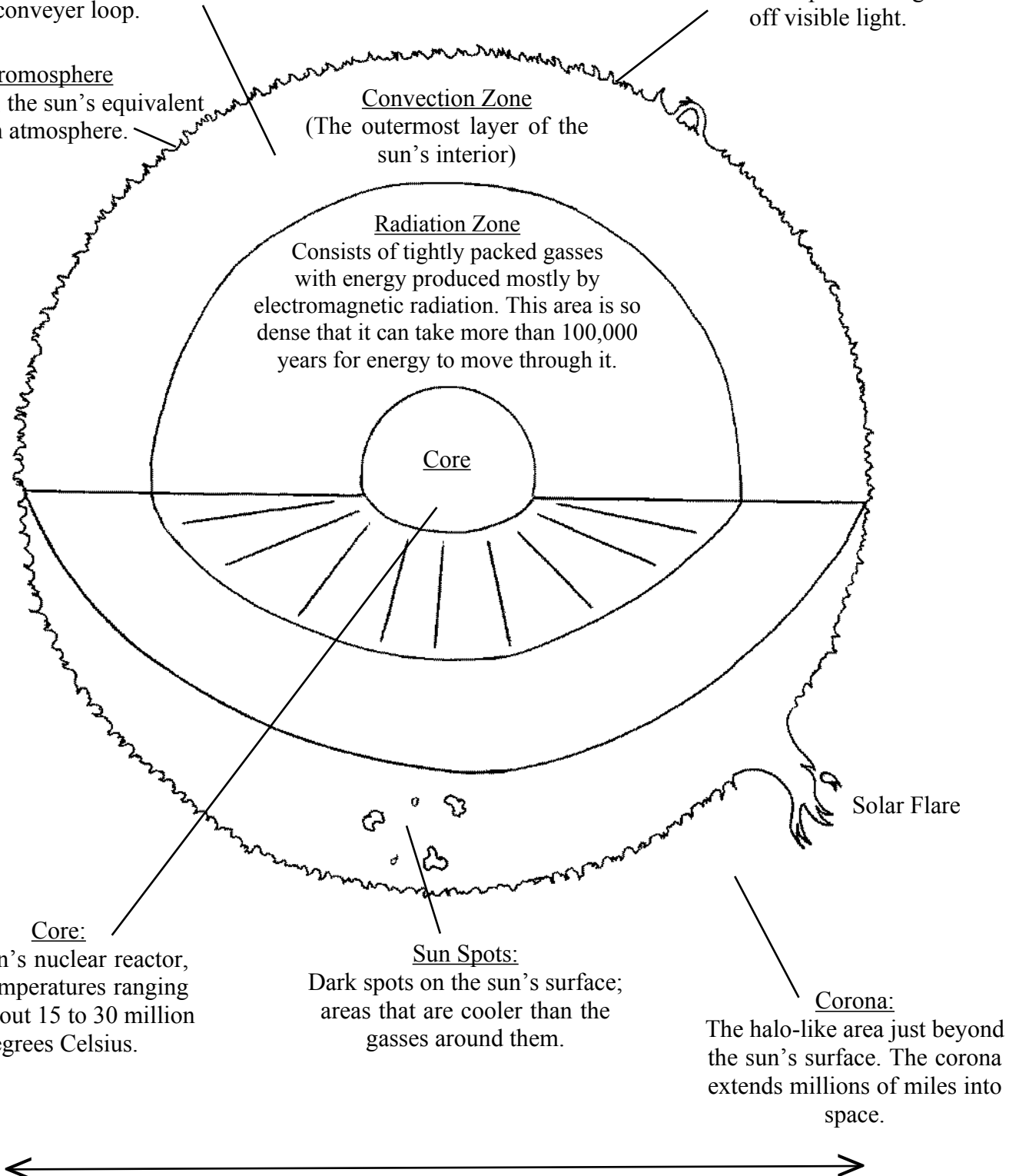
Sun Spots:

Dark spots on the sun's surface; areas that are cooler than the gasses around them.

Corona:

The halo-like area just beyond the sun's surface. The corona extends millions of miles into space.

Solar Flare



The sun's diameter is about 1.4 billion kilometers