## Did You Hear About

**INSTRUCTIONS**: I am going to read you a passage called *The Sun*. I will read it to you twice. After you listen to the first reading, you will be asked to answer a set of questions related to what you have heard. I will then read the passage again. After the second reading, you will be given time to review your answers to the questions and revise them if needed.

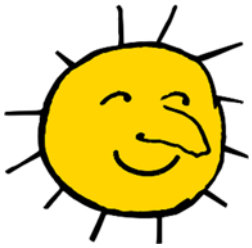
# The Sun

The sun is a yellow dwarf star. This means that its brightness, mass, and size is actually only average or low. Though small for a star, the sun is the center of our solar system, which means that all the planets in our solar system orbit the sun. The sun accounts for 99.8% of all of the mass in our solar system.

The sun is made up of very hot gases, mostly Hydrogen. Hydrogen atoms in the sun are constantly being converted to Helium atoms in a process called nuclear fusion. Nuclear fusion generate an enormous amount of heat. This is why the sun is so hot and bright, and why heat and light from the sun is able to reach all the way to Earth. We have day and night because the Earth is always rotating on its axis. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to make one complete rotation on its axis. The part of the Earth that is facing the sun experiences day, while the part facing away from the sun experiences night. We have seasons because the Earth's relationship with the sun is always changing as it moves along its orbital path. As the Earth's relationship to the sun changes, so does the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth.

We could not live without the sun. Earth would be a cold, dark place that could not sustain life. With the sun, plants could not perform photosynthesis to create food for themselves. Plants are the first link in the food chain, so if there were no plants, nothing else would be able to eat and there would be no living things.

Name _____ *Did You Hear About*



**QUESTIONS: The Sun**

1. The sun is a yellow _____.

2. The brightness, mass, and size of the sun is only _____.

3. The sun accounts for _____ of all the mass in the solar system.

4. What is the sun made up of?

5. Nuclear fusion generates an enormous amount of _____.

6. Why is heat and light from the sun able to make it all the way to Earth?

7. Why is the sun so important to life on Earth?