PUNCH Public Engagement Monthly Newsletter

Issue 5: Mar 2023

Shining New Light on Diverse Views of the Sun
with our Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching Theme

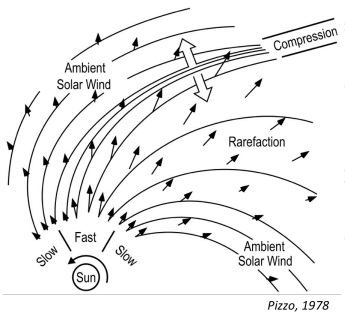
Did You Know....

... that in the early 1960's, a young NASA researcher named Marcia Neugebauer discovered the solar wind using measurements from a spacecraft called Mariner 2?

Pilot Testing New Activities: *Dancing Up a Solar Storm*

One of the goals of our project is to develop kinesthetic activities that help learners embody Sun-related content. We recently tested two new activities: *Sun Trackers* and *Dancing Up a Solar Storm* with Girl Scouts and families visiting Fiske Planetarium in Boulder, CO. The activities introduce learners to 1) the daily and annual motions of the Sun, and to 2) the difference between solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections.

Photo by Cherilynn Morrow



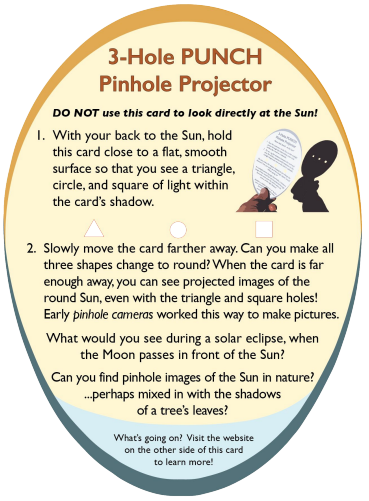
Pizzo, 1978

Images shared by Heather Elliott

Dancing Up a Solar Storm was inspired by Dr. Heather Elliott, a PUNCH scientist who studies the features of the solar wind, including so-called Corotating Interaction Regions. Dr. Elliott is is also a dancer and uses scarves to represent these spiral regions of more dense solar wind.

3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector Now Available

We are excited to announce the release of the English version of our 3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector! Our field-tested design can be used indoors or outdoors to explore how small triangular, square, and round holes can all act like lenses to produce round pinhole images of the Sun. We will also create a Spanish translation of our projector.



To learn more about how pinhole projection works and/or to find instructions for professional prints, visit our website here.

Your Solar Photo of the Month

Every month we feature a photo submitted by readers that portrays a personal experience of the Sun. Get creative and multi-sensory! See the bottom of page for submission info.

Photo by Cherilynn Morrow

A sunrise rainbow appears next to Fajada Butte in Chaco Canyon, NM during a recent trip to celebrate the Equinox.