



Adult Learning Within Reach

Member Lecture – 9 May 2024

Our star: the Sun
Ann Bonell, WEA tutor

Questions answered post-lecture

Q1 Do we have an estimate of how far the Sun's corona extends?

It's difficult to find a definitive answer to this! The extent of the corona varies as evidenced by photos taken during total solar eclipses. However, NASA states in its description of the **Layers of the Sun**:

'**Corona** – The corona is the outermost layer of the Sun, starting at about 1300 miles (2100 km) above the solar surface (the photosphere). The temperature in the corona is 500,000 K (900,000 degrees F, 500,000 degrees C) or more, up to a few million K. The corona cannot be seen with the naked eye except during a total solar eclipse, or with the use of a coronagraph. The corona does not have an upper limit. Credit: National Solar Observatory.'

Useful links and resources for further reading

spaceweather.com – news and information about the Sun-Earth environment.

British Astronomical Association – Our Star – The Sun – information about the composition of the Sun and observing it.

Forthcoming WEA courses by Ann Bonell

None currently but keep an eye out on the website – **www.wea.org.uk**. You can search using Ann's name.