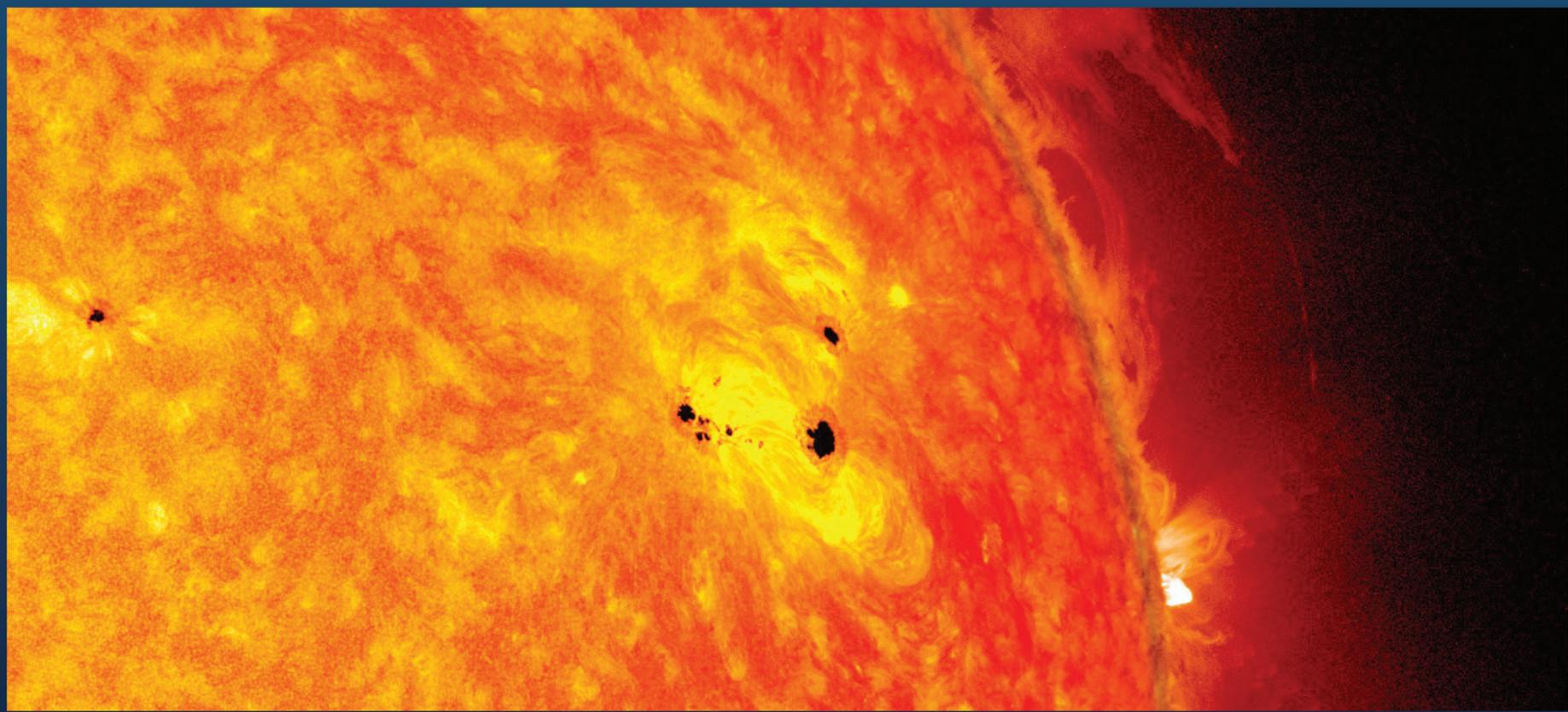


THE SUN



NASA/SDO/AIA/HMI/Goddard Space Flight Center

The Sun is made of gas and plasma and does not have a solid surface like the Earth and Moon.

SUNSPOTTING

Sunspots are dark, planet-size regions with strong magnetic fields on the surface of the Sun. These regions of the Sun appear darker because they are cooler than their surroundings.

The center of a sunspot is about $6,000^{\circ}\text{F}$ whereas the surrounding area can be almost $4,000^{\circ}\text{F}$ hotter. The frequency and intensity of sunspots indicate the current level of solar activity driven by the Sun's magnetic field.

THE SUN'S CROWN

Total solar eclipses allow scientists to see a part of the Sun that is usually hidden—its atmosphere or corona.

Why? The Sun's surface is much brighter than the corona and continuously outshines it.

Watch closely, once the Moon completely blocks out the Sun during totality, you will be able to spy the elusive corona with your naked eye for a few short minutes.



NASA/Aubrey Gemignani

The Sun's corona as seen during a total solar eclipse.