Soak Up the Sun

The sun is very important to everything living on the planet earth. Not only does the sun provide light, warmth and energy for plants to grow, but it also helps make for a great day for children to go outside and play!

Try this Learning Triangle out and learn why the sun is important to us. First, view an episode of Sid the Science Kid. Then read The Sun Is My Favorite Star by Frank Asch, and see how the sun affects one child’s day. Next, become a scientist and observe what materials can absorb the most heat from the sun.

For more information...

KidsAstronomy.com:
http://www.kidsastronomy.com

NASA Kids:
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html

VIEW:

Sid the Science Kid (#135)
Sid the Weatherman
Sunday, November 22, 2009 @ 9 a.m.

Sid wants to be a weatherman so he can decide what the weather will be every day. Sid and friends investigate weather and learn that weathermen don’t control the weather, but they do have to know all about rain, sun, wind, and hot and cold temperatures! Join Sid and friends as they learn about the science behind weather.

As you watch...

Are there other weather conditions you can think of that Sid did not mention?
What do weathermen need to know in order to do their jobs?
Who is your favorite weatherman? Why?
READ:

The Sun Is My Favorite Star
By Frank Asch

The sun comes in the window, wakes up a little boy, and continues to play a central role throughout his day. It waits for him to come outside and even plays hide-and-seek. The large, bright watercolor drawings are enhanced through the use of computer technology. The spare text and the art, which dominates the pages and is bursting with color, make the book especially appealing to the youngest listeners. Children will enjoy following the main character as he travels through a typical day. They will readily relate to the pictures of the sun peeking through a hole in the fence and casting shadows on the wall.

--Sheilah Kosco, School Library Journal

Other Recommended Books:
Wake Up, Sun! by David Lee Harrison
Sun Bread by Elisa Klevin
Sun Up, Sun Down by Gail Gibbons

DO:

Be a sun scientist!

Materials:
- Thermometer
- Paper
- Pencil
- Miscellaneous materials (try using materials with different colors, texture, etc.)

Instructions:
1. Go outdoors on a hot sunny day and lay items out on the ground.
2. Check the air temperature and write it down on your paper.
3. After a few minutes of leaving your random materials out in the sun, hold the end of the thermometer against each material and record the temperature.
4. Be a scientist and explore which one of your materials absorbed more heat from the sun!