

Closest Star Clues

Read for evidence about why the Sun looks so large and bright.

SC.3.E.5.3 "Recognize that the Sun appears large and bright because it is the closest star to Earth."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that explains why the Sun appears large and bright. Circle the word or words in those sentences that name the reason.

A Star Nearby

- ① On a clear morning, Maya looked at the bright Sun through a classroom window. The Sun looked like the biggest, brightest object in the sky. Later, her teacher explained that the Sun is a star. Other stars also give off light, but they are so far away that they look like tiny points at night.
- ② Distance changes how an object appears. A nearby flashlight can seem brighter than a faraway flashlight, even if both are alike. In the same way, the Sun appears large and bright because Earth is much closer to it than to any other star. The Sun is not the largest star. It only looks larger because it is nearer to Earth.
- ③ Imagine standing beside a campfire at night. Its light may seem strong because you are close to it. A distant porch light may look smaller and dimmer, even though it is still a light source. Scientists use this idea when they compare the Sun with other stars. The Sun appears special in our sky because it is Earth's closest star.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of object is the Sun?

2 Why do other stars look like tiny points at night?

3 Why does the Sun appear large and bright in Earth's sky?

4 Does the Sun look larger because it is the largest star? Use information from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences comparing the Sun with a faraway star. Tell how distance from Earth changes how each one appears.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that explains why the Sun appears large and bright. Circle the word or words in those sentences that name the reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of object is the Sun?	The Sun is a star.
2	Why do other stars look like tiny points at night?	They are very far away from Earth.
3	Why does the Sun appear large and bright in Earth's sky?	The Sun appears large and bright because it is much closer to Earth than any other star.
4	Does the Sun look larger because it is the largest star? Use information from the passage.	No. The Sun is not the largest star. It looks larger because it is nearer to Earth.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Sun looks larger and brighter than a faraway star because Earth is closer to the Sun. A faraway star looks like a tiny point, even though it gives off light too.

Accept responses that correctly state that the Sun is a star and appears large and bright because it is Earth's closest star. For the open response, accept any accurate comparison that connects greater distance with a smaller, dimmer-looking star.