8. Sunspots appear _______________ than the surrounding areas on the Sun because __________________________________________. Sunspots typically last __________ ____________.

9. Solar flares are __________________________________________. Often, the released particles escape the surface of the Sun in the ______________ ___________ and Earth gets _________________ with particles a few days later.

10. Within the core of the Sun, where ___________________________ _________________ are extremely high, fusion occurs. Fusion is _________________________________.

11. In the core of the Sun, _______________ is a product of the process in which _______________ nuclei fuse. The mass lost in the fusion of hydrogen to helium is converted to ________________, which powers the Sun.

12. The Sun consists of about 70.4 percent ________________, and about 28 percent _______________, measured by mass, along with a small amount of other elements. The Sun’s composition represents that of the _______________________________. Hydrogen and helium are the predominant gases in ____________, as well as in the entire _______________. All other elements are in very small _______________ compared to hydrogen and helium.