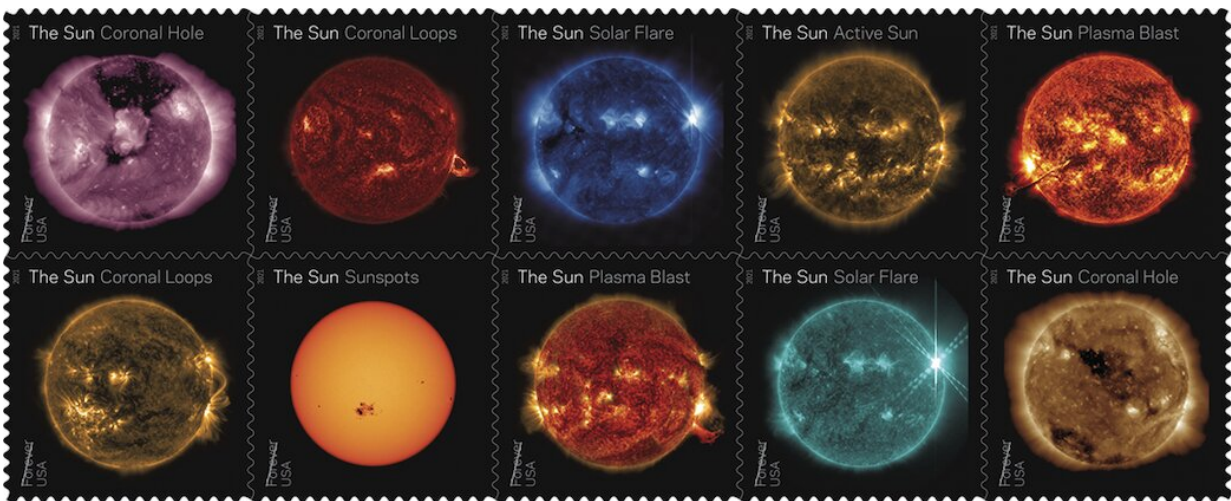


The U.S. Postal Service to issue NASA sun science forever stamps

January 18 2021, by Mara Johnson-Groh



The United States Post office announced on Jan. 15, 2021, that they would be releasing a series of stamps highlighting images of the Sun captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. Credit: NASA/SDO/USPS

NASA's images of the sun's dynamic and dazzling beauty have captivated the attention of millions. In 2021, the US Postal Service is showcasing the sun's many faces with a series of sun Science forever stamps that show images of solar activity captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO.

"I have been a stamp collector all my life and I can't wait to see NASA science highlighted in this way," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate

administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) in Washington. "I feel that the [natural world](#) around us is as beautiful as art, and it's inspiring to be able to share the import and excitement of studying the sun with people around the country."

The 20-stamp set features ten images that celebrate the science behind NASA's ongoing exploration of our nearest star. The images display common events on the sun, such as [solar flares](#), sunspots and coronal loops. SDO has kept a constant eye on the sun for over a decade. Outfitted with equipment to capture images of the sun in multiple wavelengths of visible, ultraviolet, and extreme ultraviolet light, SDO has gathered hundreds of millions of images during its tenure to help scientists learn about how our star works and how its constantly churning magnetic fields create the solar activity we see.

That [solar activity](#) can drive [space weather](#) closer to Earth that can interfere with technology and radio communications in space. In addition to this immediate relevancy to our high-tech daily lives, the study of the sun and its influence on the planets and space surrounding it—a field of research known as heliophysics—holds [profound implications](#) for the understanding of our solar system and the thousands of solar systems that have been discovered beyond our own. As our closest star, the sun is the only nearby star that humans are able to study in great detail, making it a vital source of data.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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