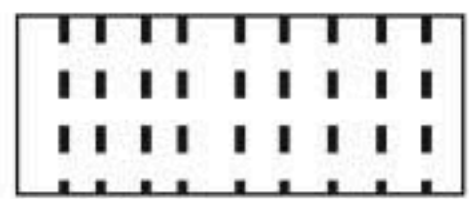


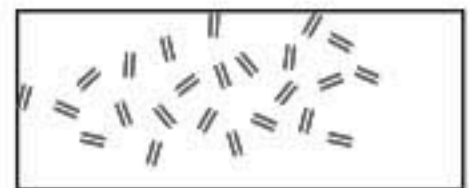
Close-Up of Sunspot and Solar Flare

When the Sun is very active, it produces darker areas called sunspots. The darkest part of the sunspot is in the center and is surrounded by a lighter area. When energy builds up near sunspots, it may be released through explosions called solar flares. These flares often take on the shape of a ribbon. On Earth, we feel the effects of solar flare eruptions through disruptions in satellite communication and through colorful sky displays called auroras.

KEY



solar flare
ribbon



sunspot area



sunspot center

