Name _____

The Sun's Recipe: Unraveling Its Composition

Short Answer Key

1. Nuclear fusion in the Sun's core involves hydrogen atoms colliding and fusing together to form helium atoms, releasing energy in the process.
2. Trace elements contribute to the Sun's composition by making up the remaining 1% of its mass. These elements include oxygen, carbon, neon, nitrogen, magnesium, silicon, and iron, among others.
3. The solar wind consists of charged particles and electrons released by the Sun into space. It can interact with the Earth's magnetic field, leading to phenomena like the Northern and Southern Lights (auroras).
4. The photosphere is the Sun's visible surface, responsible for emitting the light and heat that we perceive as sunlight.
5. The Sun will eventually become a red giant, expanding in size and potentially engulfing some inner planets like Mercury and Venus. Ultimately, it will become a white dwarf, marking the end of its active phase as a star.