**The Sun**

**The sun is the nearest star and if it were hollow, over a**

**million earths would fit inside. The sun’s diameter**

**is 86,000 miles and it rotates on its axis about once**

**a month. The sun is a mass of incandescent gas. It is**

**a gigantic nuclear furnace where hydrogen is converted into helium at a temperature of millions of**

**degrees. The sun’s surface, the photosphere, is**

**speckled with bright patches and dark sunspots caused**

**by storms on the sun’s surface. Rising through and**

**beyond the chromospheres, great streamers of glowing**

**gases shoot out or rain down. It is unsafe to observe**

**the sun directly with the naked eye, binoculars or**

**through a telescope.**