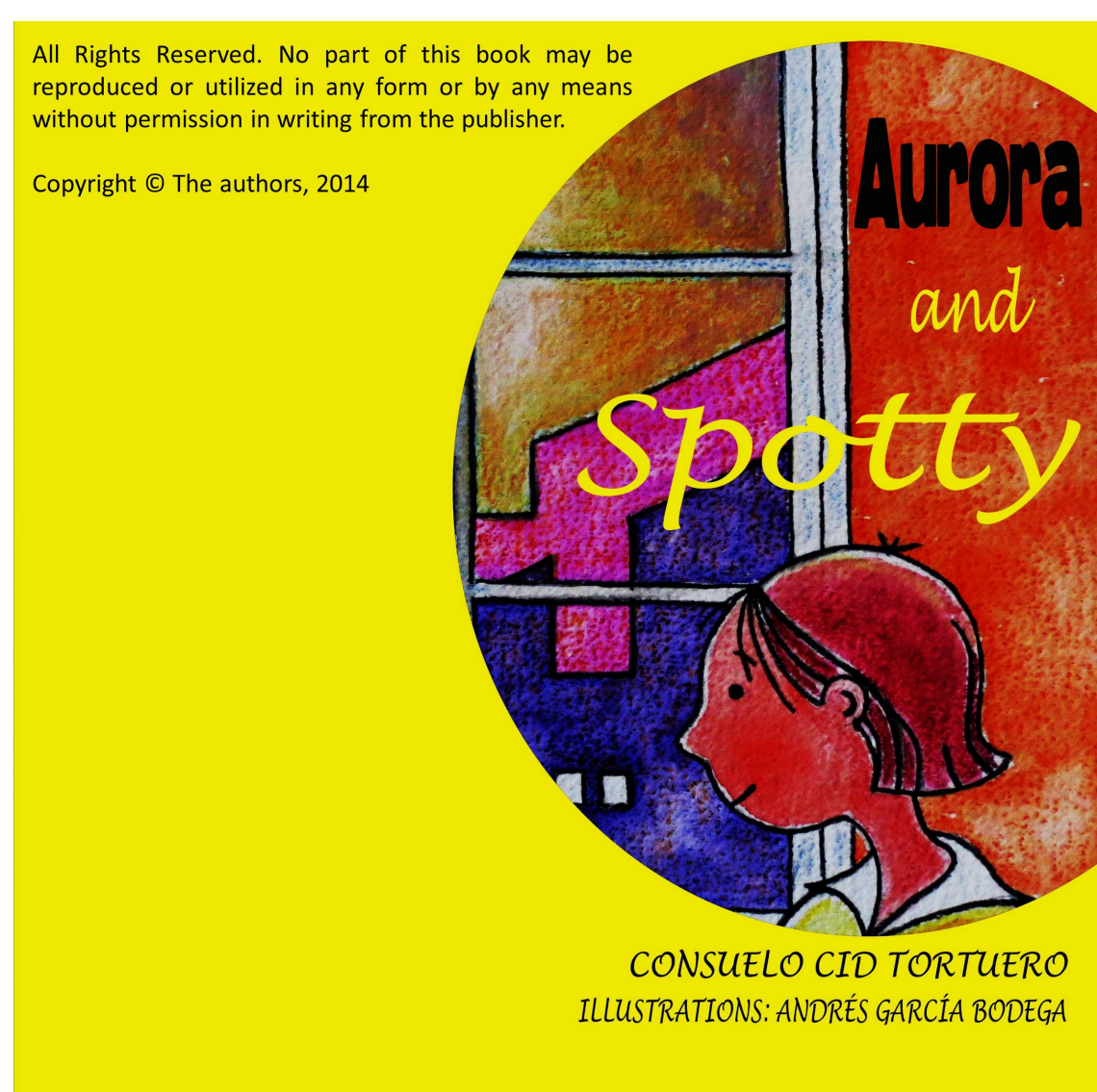


‘Aurora and Spotty’: a children story to communicate Space Weather

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Abstract. ‘Aurora and Spotty’ is a story written to communicate Space Weather to children. This presentation describes an initiative visiting schools and telling the story to children from 4 to 7 years old. The school activity starts before the visit, with the children drawing a picture of the Sun. Then, after the visit, the children draw a second picture of the Sun. Comparison between these two drawings made by every child show us what he/she has learned and also his/her fascination about space weather. We will show some results from the drawings and will share our experience in this outreach initiative.

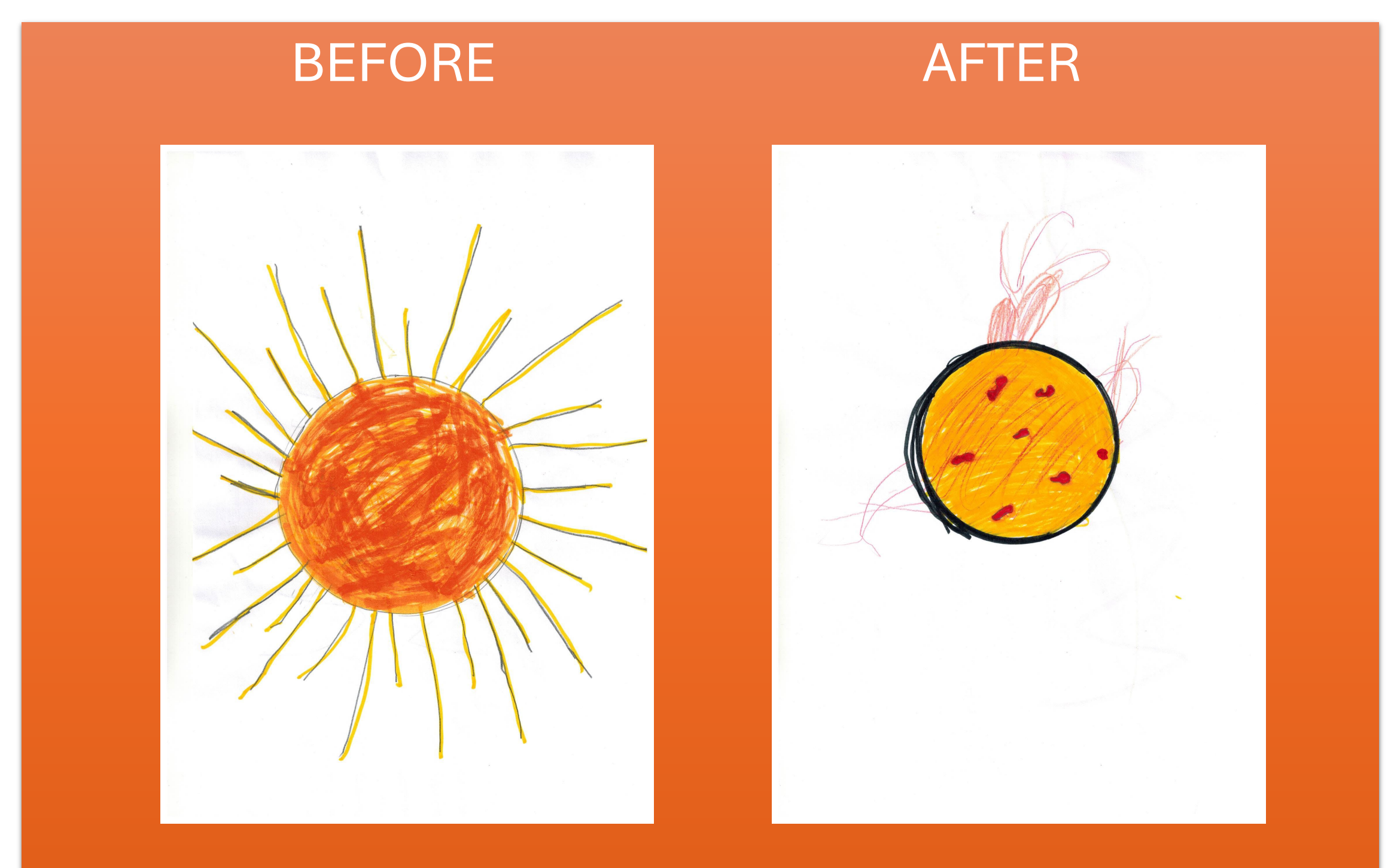
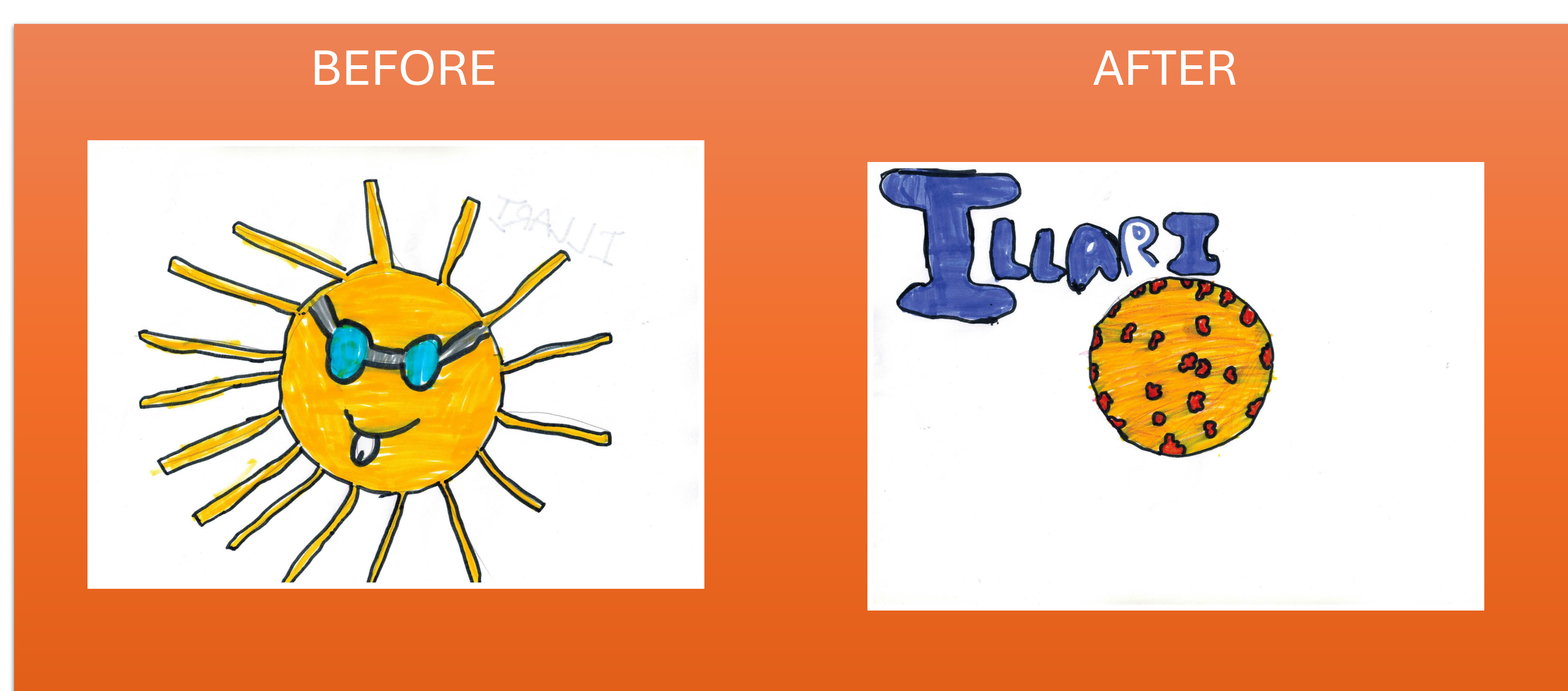


Dissemination activities start telling the story of ‘Aurora and Spotty’ while projecting the illustrations of the book on a screen. Then, real time images of the Sun from the H α telescope of the University and movies and from SDO mission are shown. Finally, lots of questions are answered to satisfy children curiosity on Solar Physics and Space Weather

The schools visited were mainly in small towns, with difficult access to extracurricular activities. “Aurora and Spotty” has been “read” to more than 150 children.



AGE 4-5



AGE 6-7

CONCLUSIONS

- After the activities, the Sun is not appearing with *eyes, nose and mounth* (or even glasses) and rarely appears with *rays* in children’s drawings. This is an important change for their minds
- Children with ages 4-5 are able to learn that the Sun has spots and ejects mass
- Additionally, children with ages 6-7 are able to learn about other shapes of solar activity different to sunspots, like prominences

- “Aurora and Spotty” story, complemented with solar observations, is an excellent material for children with ages between 4 to 7 to introduce space weather. More than 2/3 of children participating in the activities showed through their drawings that they have changed their conception of the Sun