

Hello and welcome, AQUILAnauts, to this bright and bubbly Solar Science issue.

Ready to catch some serious rays? Slap on some sunscreen and let's get started, shall we?

What's your FAVOURITE thing about summer? It's hard to choose. I think, for me, it's enjoying a melty ice cream on the beach (blue bubble-gum flavour, obvs – blue foods are the best foods) and the feeling of sinking my feet into hot sand. That, or watching Pepe drag his dog bed around the office floor to stay in the warm, sunny spots. Lush.

Of course, many of our friends on the other side of the world aren't in summer at all. Instead, they're approaching their mid-WINTER solstice. If that's you, please accept this massive warm wintery HUG from everyone here at AQUILA. We hope you're feeling lovely and cosy, and that this issue will remind you of sunny days to come!

We've got LOADS going on in the magazine this month, and that's not all. There are plenty of extra activities to be found on the **resources page** of the AQUILA website, too. Here are our spectacular Solar Science activities:

- Make a **Sun temple chest plate** with Polly Chrome.
- Play a shady game of **shadow tag**.
- Investigate the **science of sunlight**, water and sky colour with Harvey.
- Try **getting up at the crack of dawn** and having a go at some creative writing, with team Wordworm.
- Finally, why not take on Polly's **Head in the Clouds Drawing Challenge?**

Don't forget to let us know which was your favourite.

Freya Hardy, ed

We hope you have a jubilant and joyful June. Please join us next month for a truly incredible adventure. Grab your rucksacks, primordial swamp stilts and Martian plug adapters, coz we're going **TIME TRAVELLING**.



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Ello sunshine
Check out the world's most amazing daylight deities, I'm talking SUN GODS, people. Just don't look directly at them, OK?

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Can you rearrange some snazzy specs AND choose the best picnic spot (avoiding the hungry ants' nest/vampire's grave/terrifying-and-probably-haunted well)? Let's find out. Here's this month's **Brainfeeders**.

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Panel of experts
Did you know that solar power actually has its roots (or should that be rays?) way back in the 19th CENTURY? Let's meet a set of solar scientists. Hmmm illuminating!

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Spice up your life
We've heard of walking on sunshine, but painting with it? **Harvey's** game. **WARNING:** This experiment includes turmeric and is extremely MESSY – rubber gloves at the ready!

PAGE 10

A star is born
What exactly are sunspots and how do they relate to the Northern/Southern lights? Whatever the answer, they're certainly aurorawesome! **Astra's** investigating sunspots and solar winds, with a bit of help from an expert.

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Lyon King
Flashy French monarch Louis XIV fashioned himself after the Greek god Apollo and made the Sun his emblem, but why? **Aquila** peers into the past, to find out.

PAGE 14

Copper load of this
This month, **Polly's** making a beeeautifully balanced wire sculpture, and you can too.

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Here's a story to brighten your day
Visit the island of Mecherchar, where golden jellyfish chase the Sun, like wobbly sun-worshippers. Did you know a group of jellyfish is called a SMACK? Neither did we.

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AQUILAnews
and Ian!

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Saddled with it
When Scarlett and Max find a bright red bicycle in a reservoir, they reckon their luck is in. Little do they know what's actually in store. Find out just how wrong they are, in **Josette Reeves'** brilliant new short story, **The Bad Luck Bicycle**.

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Escape from the Ice Cream Van of Doom!
You're trapped in the back of an ice cream van, which is teetering at the edge of a very crumbly chalk cliff. Can you solve the puzzles and free yourself before your hands get too cold to work the lock? GO!

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Full of beans in Milton Keynes
Egypt's not the only place with pyramids, you know? They may not be as ancient (or quite as glamorous), but as far as Sun temples go, Milton Keynes has you covered!

Illustration: Katie Cottle