

Chapter 20

Use with Section 2

ENRICHMENT

● The Sun

Sunspot Activity

Use the information about sunspot activity to answer the questions.

Year	Number of observed sunspots	Year	Number of observed sunspots
1728	135	1766	20
1732	7	1770	130
1739	125	1775	5
1743	6	1778	165
1750	90	1784	18
1756	15	1788	140
1761	80	1797	6

- In the list underline in red all the entries that include at least 80 sunspots.
- Which years did you underline in red? These are the years of sunspot maximum. _____

- Which years are NOT underlined? These are years of sunspot minimum. _____

- How many years are between 1728 and 1739? 1739 and 1750? 1750 and 1761? 1761 and 1770? 1770 and 1778? 1778 and 1788? _____
- Do sunspot maximums always occur every 11 years? If not, is there a general pattern? _____

- How many years are between 1732 and 1743? 1743 and 1756? 1756 and 1766? 1766 and 1775? 1775 and 1784? 1784 and 1797? _____

- Scientists think the sunspot minimums are also on an 11-year cycle. Do your data support this theory? _____

- If the last sunspot maximum was in 1990, when will the next two maximums most likely occur? _____

- If the last sunspot minimum occurred in 1986, when did the next minimum occur? _____