Astronomy Solar Observing Session Worksheet

Purpose: To observe the surface features of the Sun using a telescope.

What NOT to do when you go:
Do not look at the Sun with your eyes directly! You can damage your eyes if you look at the Sun directly.

What to do when you go:
1. Attend a daytime observing session and complete this lab worksheet.
2. Answer the questions on page 1 before entering the Observatory.
3. Answer the questions on page 2 as the observing session progresses.

Rule: You may ask the instructor for assistance with answering questions or discuss the questions with your classmates, but you must write your own responses in your own words.

Answer the first two questions before entering the Observatory.

1. (a) What is the date and local time of your observations?
   (b) What are the sky conditions (e.g., clear, partly cloudy)?

2. What is the Sun’s location relative to the zenith (e.g., N, S, E, W)?

Get the signature of the Instructor/TA below before you leave!
Now you are inside the Observatory, and the session is about to start.

3. On the circle below draw and label the surface features that you observe on the Sun.

4. Briefly explain the causes of the surface features you observed.