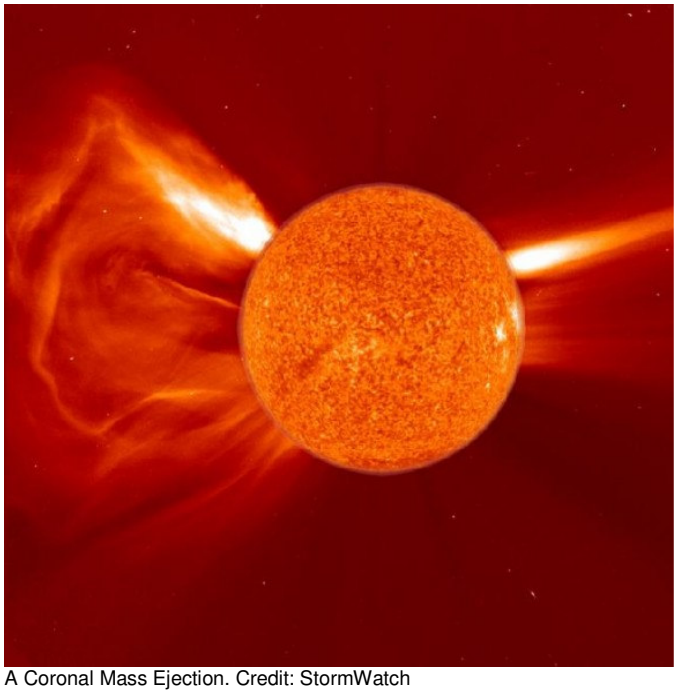
SOLAR STORM WATCH



A Coronal Mass Ejection. Credit: StormWatch

Now you can have the chance to help scientists spot and track solar storms and be involved in the latest solar research. The 'hottest' new Citizen Science project from the "Zooniverse" is Solar Storm Watch. Volunteers can spot storms and track their progress as they hurtle across space towards our planet. Your "clicks" and input will help solar scientists better understand these potentially dangerous storms and help to forecast their arrival time at Earth. "The more people looking at our data, the more discoveries we will make," said Dr. Chris Davis, Project Scientist with the STEREO mission. "We encourage everyone to track these spectacular storms through space. These storms are a potential radiation hazard for spacecraft and astronauts alike and together we hope to provide advanced warning of their arrival at Earth."

The project uses real data from NASA's STEREO spacecraft, a pair of satellites in orbit around the Sun which give scientists a constant eye on the ever-changing solar surface. STEREO's two wide-field instruments, the Heliospheric Imagers provide Solar Stormwatch with its data. Each imager has two cameras helping STEREO stare across the 150 million kilometers from the Earth to the Sun.

All you need is a computer and an interest in finding out more about what the Sun is really like. Solar Storm Watch has made their project very interactive with social media, as you can share your discoveries on the user forum and Flickr, as well as follow the space weather forecast on Twitter.

Link:
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