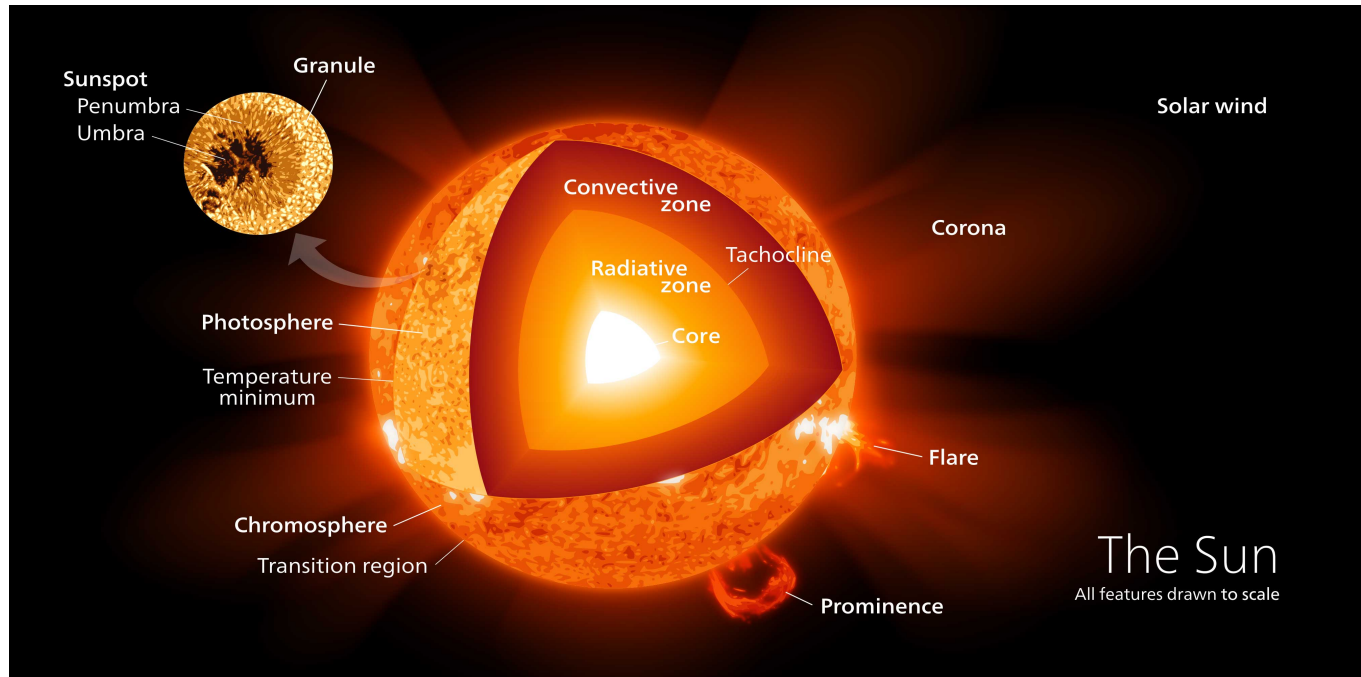


10.7: Solar Regions

Astronomers identify four major regions within the sun.

1. First there is the sun's **Core**, the central region where nuclear fusion occurs. This is a very high temperature gaseous soup of charged particles called plasma at 15 million degrees.
2. Next is the **Radiative Zone**, where energy generated in the core is carried by light that bounces from particle to particle through the Radiative Zone.
3. Above the radiative zone is the **Interface Layer**, where it is thought the sun's magnetic field is generated. This layer or zone lies between the Radiative and Convective Zones.
4. The **Convective Zone** is the region in which energy is transported outward by convection; 70% of the sun's radius. Convection occurs because heated fluids rise and cooler fluids fall. Convection is the area of the sun which shows rising heat – recall that heat rises and cold falls.



Regions of the SunPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.

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