

Read this text about repeating science experiments and then prepare a 3-4 minute oral talk in answer to the question below, using the text as a starting point. **You can use ideas from the text but do not quote sentences or give a summary of the article.** During the talk you may use the notes you have made but you are not allowed to read them out. You will have 10 minutes to prepare.

Question:

**Would you enjoy being part of similar experiments?**

## **Solar Minimum has Arrived**

Every year in February, the students of Mrs. Phillips's 5th grade class in Bishop, California, celebrate Galileo's birthday (Feb. 15th) by repeating one of his discoveries. They prove that the sun spins.

It's simple. Step 1: Look at the sun. Galileo did this using a primitive telescope; Mrs. Phillips's students use the internet. Step 2: Sketch the sunspots. Step 3: Repeat daily. After only a few days, it's obvious that the sunspots are moving and sun is spinning, performing one complete turn every 27 days.

This procedure worked fine in 1610. But in 2006, "we had a problem," says young Jonathan Garcia. "No sunspots."

For almost the entire month of February 2006 the sun was utterly blank. If Galileo had looked at the sun on his 442nd birthday, he would have been disappointed – no sunspots, no spin, no discovery.

What's going on? NASA solar physicist David Hathaway explains: "Solar minimum has arrived."