



Topics:

• How to keep the Earth habitable when the sun dies

In a billion years, the sun will start to run out of fuel and expand to become a red giant. Earth's oceans and atmosphere will be burned away, and Earth will likely be engulfed by the sun altogether. The sun will then shrink to a dim white dwarf, and all light and warmth in the solar system will diminish. In a hundred trillion years, the galaxy's ability to produce stars will be exhausted, and everything will turn dark. However, there's a way for life to escape this fate—and what's more, we wouldn't need to leave the planet to do it. We just need to build some safeguards.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-08-earth-habitable-sun-dies.html>

• What happens to a moon when its planet is stolen?

We have known for a while that the Milky Way is full of homeless worlds. Rogue planets, free-floating planets, call them what you like, but they are planets formed in orderly systems around ordinary stars and then thrown out, either by a gravitational shove from a sibling planet or by a star that strayed too close. What has been much less clear is what happens to any moons they were carrying at the time. Eviction is a violent business, and you would expect a moon to be the first thing lost.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-08-moon-planet-stolen.html>

• Pluto's hazy atmosphere may be collapsing as it moves farther from the sun

Pluto is on an icy march away from the sun. In 2114, it will turn back, but until then, its elliptical orbit will carry it to colder and darker parts of the outer solar system. This is Pluto's first time entering the outer solar system since its 1930 discovery, and along this journey, its atmosphere could slowly freeze out.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-08-pluto-hazy-atmosphere-collapsing-sun.html>