

Radiation

If you have ever held your hand close to a hot stove, it would feel warm without your hands actually touching the hot stove. The sun and fire can do this too. They can warm you even when you are not physically touching them! The hot stove, the sun, and fire are heat sources. The type of heat transfer you are experiencing is heat transfer by radiation. Radiation brings heat to Earth by traveling through nothingness, empty space! There are no solids (like giant metal spoons) touching the Sun and planet Earth and there are no fluids (substances that flow like air or water) setting up convection currents to transfer heat. Amazing!

