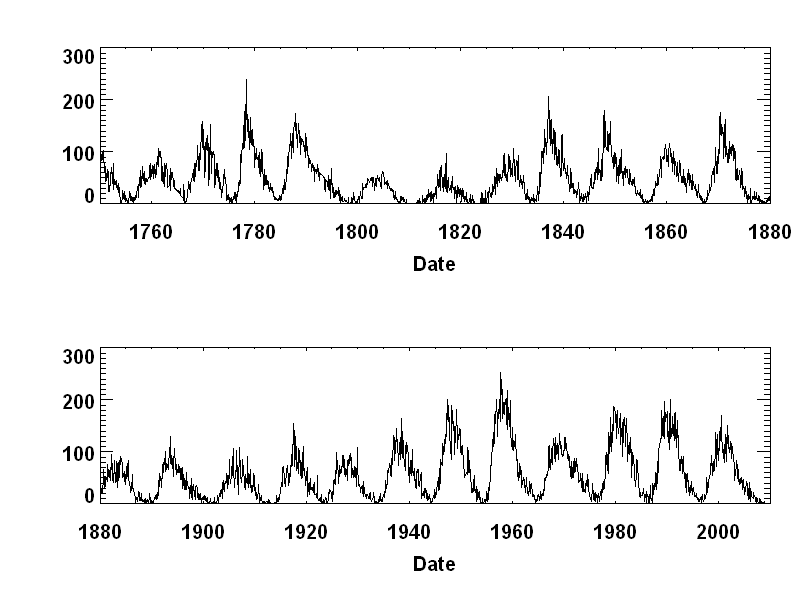
# Sunspot Number Activity

Figure 1: This public-domain chart from NASA shows the “International Sunspot Number,” which combines data from many observatories into a scaled estimate of the number of sunspots on the Sun for a given month.

1. Roughly, how frequently do we see a peak (maximum) in the number of sunspots? (Alternately, you can estimate how long between minimums, with few or no sunspots.)
2. Is the amount of time between maximums (or minimums) always the same? If not, estimate the range of variation in the time between maximums.
3. How are some sunspot cycles different from others?
4. What kinds of solar activity (other than sunspots themselves) are we likely to see during a sunspot cycle? (We often refer to these as solar “weather”.)
5. What is the relationship between the number of sunspots during a cycle and the probability that we will see these other kinds of solar activity?
6. What kinds of solar activity can directly affect the Earth and humanity?
7. What are some of the effects that we (humans) may experience as a result of solar activity?