



The sun

Coronal mass ejection

1. Solar storm erupts off the surface of the sun

2. A coronal mass ejection blasts off the sun's surface headed in the earth's direction

3. The magnetic plasma cloud sails through space

4. Two to four days later the shockwave is deflected around the Earth's magnetosphere, disrupting communications and navigational equipment, damaging satellites and even causing blackouts

Earth

Magnetic field

Coronal mass ejection