Total Solar Eclipse!

Includes

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WHAT IN THE WORLD?
Level 1, 2023/2024: Issue 6

MISSION STATEMENT
LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. aims to help teachers develop students’ engagement in, understanding of, and ability to critically assess current issues and events by providing quality, up-to-date, affordable, ready-to-use resources appropriate for use across the curriculum.

I have had many parents comment to me about how great they think What in the World? is, and they look forward to each month’s issue coming home... This is a great resource for a small country school to explore the global issues that affect us all.

K. Camelon, Grade 7/8 teacher
Admaston, ON

Hay’sxw’qa!
LesPlan is grateful to the Lkwungen Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose unceded land we now live, and do our work.

We welcome your comments and appreciate your suggestions. Please contact us at any time.
1. Write ‘solar eclipse’ on the board.

2. Have students turn and talk to a partner about what happens during a solar eclipse.

3. Invite students to share their ideas as a class. (E.g., the Sun is blocked by the Moon; it looks like night during the day; the orbits of the Earth and the Moon line up to hide the Sun; etc.)

4. Show students this animation of a total solar eclipse: 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyfsJF_VxwM [2:06]

5. Have small groups come up with some questions that they hope to have answered while reading this article.

6. Finally, invite students use those questions to set a purpose for reading the article, referring to the resource page Setting A Purpose Before Reading as needed.
If April 8 is a clear day, many Canadians will watch the Sun vanish. The reason? The Moon will line up perfectly between the Earth and the Sun. This will block the Sun and cast a shadow on parts of Earth. Such an event is called a total solar eclipse.

A PLACE-SPECIFIC EVENT

An eclipse is place-specific. It is only visible along the path where the Moon blocks the Sun. The path where a solar eclipse is complete is called the “path of totality.”

Imagine holding a dinner plate between you and a lamp. Line things up so that it looks like the lamp and plate are about the same size. If you’re directly behind the plate, the lamp will not be visible. Your friend standing beside you may see part of the lamp past the edge of the plate. Someone a few steps away will see the lamp normally. The plate will not affect their view.

For places far from the path of totality, there will be no sign of the eclipse. Places outside the path but near it will see a partial eclipse that dims the sky like twilight. A total eclipse brings near-complete darkness along the path.

Imagine how scary a total solar eclipse seemed to people long ago. To the ancient Greeks, who believed the gods were angry, it heralded disaster. The word eclipse comes from the Greek word “ekleipsis.” That translates to “being abandoned.”

A RARE TOTAL ECLIPSE

The diameter of the Sun is about 400 times that of the Moon. How can something so much smaller block the Sun? Because the Sun is about 400 times farther away from the Earth than the Moon is.

If the Moon was only 273 kilometres smaller in diameter, a total eclipse would not be possible. The same is true if it were any farther from Earth. As it is, the Moon’s orbit around Earth is elliptical. When an eclipse happens with the Moon at the far point of its orbit, it can’t block the Sun completely. Instead, a halo of light appears around the Moon. This is called an annular eclipse.

In the far future, total eclipses may no longer occur because the Moon is slipping away from the Earth by a tiny amount (about 3.8 centimetres) each year.

A solar eclipse can happen only during a new moon phase when the Moon is between Earth and the Sun. At such times the Moon appears dark to us.

Why don’t we get an eclipse with every new moon? If the orbit of the Moon around Earth were on exactly the same plane as the orbit of Earth around the Sun, we would. But the orbit of the Moon tilts about five degrees.
relative to Earth’s orbit around the Sun. Usually, when the Moon passes in front of the Sun, the Moon’s shadow reaches into space and doesn’t fall on Earth.

A PATH OF DARKNESS
The April 8 solar eclipse will create a line of darkness through parts of Mexico, the United States, and Canada. There won’t be another total solar eclipse in North America until 2044.

In Canada, the path of totality will travel through the eastern provinces. Some Ontario cities to be plunged into shadow include Port Dover, Niagara Falls, Hamilton, Belleville, Kingston, and Cornwall. In Québec, Sherbrooke, Saint-Georges, and parts of southern Montréal will experience the full eclipse. So will residents of Fredericton, Miramichi, and the northern tip of Cape Breton Island.

Cities closest to the centre of the path of totality will have the longest eclipses. The total eclipse may last just a few seconds or as long as three and a half minutes. NASA calculates that the eclipse will peak in Canada along the north shore of Lake Erie just before 3:15 pm. Minutes later, it will darken cities along Lake Ontario. It will reach residents of central New Brunswick and western Prince Edward Island after 4:30 their time. Canada’s final glimpse of it will be at 5:10 local time in Newfoundland.

A BIG OPPORTUNITY
Total solar eclipses occur about every 400 years or so. The last time Kingston, Ontario, was in the path of totality was nearly 700 years ago, in 1349. The next time will be 375 years from now, in 2399. So cities in the path of totality can expect many visitors on April 8. As the eclipse approaches, they’ll see the sky darken. Temperatures may drop by more than five degrees.

Meanwhile, scientists will use this chance to study the Sun’s corona, or outer atmosphere. It’s usually impossible to see because the Sun is so bright. They want to better understand why the corona can reach temperatures of millions of degrees. Yet the Sun’s surface hovers at around 5500 degrees Celsius. They are also planning experiments involving animal noises. What do they expect to hear? More cricket sounds because many cricket species search for mates in twilight.

They aren’t sure exactly what else the eclipse will bring. But unlike the ancient Greeks, they see it as a learning experience – not something to fear. ★
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the shape of the Moon's orbit around the Earth;

2. When the Moon fully blocks the Sun and casts a shadow on part of the Earth, this is called a(n):

3. What is the path of totality?

4. When Sun, Moon, and Earth line up and the Moon is at the far point of its orbit and does not fully block the Sun, this is called a(n):

5. The Moon looks slightly different each night and there are four main lunar phases: a) new moon, b) first quarter, c) full moon, and d) last quarter. In which phase does a solar eclipse occur?

6. Why is there no eclipse every time the Moon is in this phase?

7. Where in Canada will the path of totality travel during the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024?

8. Describe what will happen as the eclipse approaches. How long will the eclipse last?

9. What do scientists plan to study during the eclipse?

10. Why are people in the path of the eclipse warned not to look at the Sun without proper protection?
The Disappearing Sun
– Total Solar Eclipse to Occur in Parts of Canada on April 8

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. The article tells us that the origin of the word “eclipse” comes from the Greek word “ekleipsis” which means ‘being abandoned’. What reasons can you suggest to explain why the ancient Greeks might have used this word to describe a total solar eclipse? Explain.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. A number of school boards in Ontario and Quebec have switched their school calendar to provide a professional activity day for teachers so that students can stay at home on April 8. They are concerned that the projected time of the total solar eclipse will correspond to the student dismissal time for many of their schools. As you see it, why might these school boards have made this decision? Do you agree or disagree with this decision? Give reasons to support your response.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/links for easy access.

1. What is a solar eclipse?

Explain what a solar eclipse is in your own words to a peer.

2. What can we expect on April 8, 2024?
https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=fojTobyNJB8 [2:48]
https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=DUCLzP1nVLQ [1:10]

What did you learn?

3. Where and at what time will the 2024 total solar eclipse be the most visible?
https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/
https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=AwlGxVcVNNw [1:08]

4. Explore the Harvard University LightSound Project site and learn how to build a LightSound Device:
https://astrolab.fas.harvard.edu/LightSound.html#about

What did you find interesting?

5. Check out these classroom resources for educators on different types of eclipses:
https://letstalkscience.ca/search/site?keys=eclipse&op=Search
Science, Technology, and the Environment

The Disappearing Sun

Total Solar Eclipse to Occur in Parts of Canada on April 8

INFOGRAPHIC

https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/interactive-models/observing-sun-during-total-solar-eclipse

Optional Video
Download this handout from NASA Space Place.

Science, Technology, and the Environment

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https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/interactive-models/observing-sun-during-total-solar-eclipse

Optional Video
Download this handout from NASA Space Place.
Experience a Solar Eclipse

WHAT IS A SOLAR ECLIPSE?

A solar eclipse happens when the Moon moves between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow on Earth, fully or partially blocking the Sun's light in some areas. There are different types of solar eclipses.

**Total Solar Eclipse**
For a total eclipse to take place, the Sun, Moon, and Earth must be in a direct line. The people who see the total eclipse are in the center of the Moon’s shadow when it hits Earth. The sky will become very dark, as if it were night. Weather permitting, people in the path of a total solar eclipse can see the Sun’s corona, the outer atmosphere of the Sun. A total solar eclipse is the only type of solar eclipse where viewers can watch without their eclipse glasses – and they can only remove them when the Moon is completely blocking the Sun.

**Annular Solar Eclipse**
An annular eclipse happens when the Moon is lined up between the Sun and Earth, but at its farthest point from Earth. Because the Moon is farther away from Earth, it seems smaller. It does not block the entire view of the Sun. The Moon in front of the Sun will look like a dark disk on top of a larger, bright disk. This creates what looks like a ring around the Moon.

Known as a hybrid eclipse, sometimes an eclipse can shift between annular and total as the Moon’s shadow moves across Earth’s surface.

**Partial Solar Eclipse**
This happens when the Sun, Moon and Earth are not exactly lined up. The Sun will appear to have a dark shadow on only part of its surface. During a total or annular solar eclipse, people outside the Moon’s inner shadow see a partial solar eclipse.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

WHERE TO WATCH
Find a nice, clear spot with a good view of the sky.

HOW TO WATCH
You can see the Sun and an eclipse with special eclipse or solar viewing glasses. NEVER look directly at the Sun without appropriate eyewear. Regular sunglasses are not safe to view an eclipse. https://go.nasa.gov/342otvS

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST
A total eclipse, when the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon, will last up to a few minutes, depending on your location.

This photo taken from the International Space Station shows the Moon’s umbral, or inner, shadow during the total solar eclipse of March 29, 2006.

https://science.nasa.gov/learn/heat/resource/eclipse-fact-sheet/
Great North American eclipse

On April 8, a total solar eclipse will dazzle millions of people in North America along a path crossing from Mexico into the United States and then Canada.

Greatest Duration
4 min, 28 secs at 18:17 GMT, Nazas, Mexico

Totality Path
Width 185 km (115 miles) average

Never look directly at eclipse with naked eye, binoculars, cameras or telescopes without specialised solar filters.
What questions do you still have about the topic presented?
Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *The Disappearing Sun.*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

**Resources Required:** pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

**Part A** Locate and label the path of the solar eclipse that will occur on April 8 and shade it grey.

**Part B** Locate and label the following provinces that will be directly affected by the eclipse. Shade these provinces purple.

Ontario
Prince Edward Island (PEI)

Quebec
Newfoundland and Labrador

**Part C** Locate and label the capital of each province above and underline each city name.

**Part D** Locate and label the following provinces and territory in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Manitoba (green)
Nunavut (yellow)
Nova Scotia (red)

**Part E** Locate and label the United States and shade it orange.

**Part F** Locate and label the capital of Canada and underline this city name.

**Part G** Locate and label the following and shade all ocean water dark blue:

Atlantic Ocean
Gulf of St. Lawrence
Hudson Bay

**Part H** Locate and label the following and shade all fresh water light blue:

Lake Superior
Lake Michigan
Lake Huron
Lake Erie
Lake Ontario

**Part I** Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Ottawa River
St. Lawrence River

**Part J** Complete your map with a frame, title, and compass.
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

1. Which of the following is TRUE about a total solar eclipse?
   a) it often recurs in the same place
   b) the Moon blocks the view of the Sun
   c) it can last up to 10 minutes
   d) it occurs with each new moon phase

2. The Sun’s outer atmosphere is called the:
   a) corona
   b) sunspot region
   c) ring of fire
   d) solar flare band

3. Why will total eclipses no longer occur in the distant future?
   a) the Moon’s orbit is slowing
   b) space dust will hide the eclipse
   c) the Sun is moving farther away
   d) the Moon is becoming more distant each year

B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is True, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is False, write the words that make it true on the line below.

5. True or False? A solar eclipse can only occur during a full moon phase.

5. True or False? The surface of the Sun is hotter than its atmosphere.

6. True or False? Infrared radiation from the Sun can cause permanent eye damage.

C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

7. The path of _______________________ is the location on Earth where a solar eclipse is complete.

8. The Moon’s orbit around Earth is _______________________ shaped.


D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

10. What is your understanding of how a solar eclipse occurs? Explain.
There are a number of reasons we read, and setting a purpose for reading – knowing WHY we are reading – helps us to focus on important information and to better understand and remember what we read. It also helps us decide HOW we will read the text.

We don’t read all texts for the same purposes or in the same way. For example, we read an instruction manual for a new Blu-ray player for a different reason than we read a book or a website. How we will read it – the strategies we use – will also differ. We are more likely to skim to find the information we need in a manual. Once we find what we need, we might read the instructions carefully to figure out what to do. Then, we stop reading, put the manual down, and carry out the steps. We may have to reread if we get confused or forget what to do.

This is a very different approach than the one we would use to read a book. When we read a book, we usually read cover-to-cover. We read carefully so we don’t miss any details because we want to understand the whole story. Sometimes we make connections or create images in our minds as we read to help us better understand what we are reading. Depending on its length, we may put the book down before we finish reading it but we will start reading where we left off.

Good readers are flexible and responsive. This means that they match their reading strategies to their purpose for reading. What types of text do you read? Why do you read them? What strategies do you use to read each of these texts? The chart below is a summary of the main purposes for reading and what each entails.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose for reading</th>
<th>What it looks like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For enjoyment</td>
<td>Usually student-selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allows students to choose a variety of genres and forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allows students to pursue what interests them while developing reading skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To experience something new</td>
<td>Students make connections between their personal experiences and those of people around the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To learn more about themselves and others</td>
<td>Students reflect on what they’ve read and express opinions and perspectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students develop a sense of their personal values and make sense of the world around them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To gain information</td>
<td>Students use the features of informational texts to gather, analyse and apply what they’ve learned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To understand issues</td>
<td>Students develop a sense of perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students pose questions, acknowledge other points of view, critique the opinions presented and support opinions with evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To appreciate writing</td>
<td>Students respond to text in ways other than written answers to apply what they’ve learned in new contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To appreciate use of media to communicate</td>
<td>Students respond to a variety of media formats (e.g., infographics, political cartoons, videos, etc.) and react to how the format supports the meaning of the message.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Chart adapted from: A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, Grades 4-6, p. 11.
Students want to know what’s happening in their world – but the news can be difficult and time-consuming to teach.

**WE HAVE THE SOLUTION.** (Five, actually.)

### The Canadian Reader
- **PDF/Word resource**
  - Clearly written, leveled Canadian current events articles
  - Literacy-based lesson plans
  - Engaging, original illustrations
  - Comics
  - Map assignments

**Product details:** 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French for grades 3 and up (1 reading level).

### What in the World?
- **PDF/Word resource**
  - National and international news stories
  - Key vocabulary
  - Background information
  - Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
  - Maps and illustrations

**Product details:** 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

### Currents4Kids.com
- **Online and interactive**
- Weekly
- Auto-graded quizzes
- Comment page for students to respond to the stories
- Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- Extension activities

**Product details:** 40 issues. **One subscription** allows all teachers and students access from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French. Currents4Kids/Infos-Jeunes: Grades 3 and up (1 reading level). News4Youth/Infos-Ados: Grades 5 and up (3 reading levels).

### News4Youth.com
- **Online interactive resource**

### Building Bridges
- **PDF/Word resource**
  - Builds understanding of current events that impact Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians
  - Two theme-based articles and lesson plans
  - Background information
  - Consistent with First Peoples Principles of Learning
  - Encourages a respectful, reflective, empathetic, and inquiring frame of mind

**Product details:** 5 issues. Variable page length. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

1-888-240-2212  www.lesplan.com

Contact us for a sample copy or free demo.

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.

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Data in the Word file

There are three ways to access data from a Word file:

1) Select the data you wish to Copy and then Paste it into any word processing program. Use Select All to copy the entire document.

2) Import the entire Word file into LibreOffice (or another similar program) and then save as a new file.

3) Create a new file in a different format. Use the Word Save As command to choose: 1) plain text, 2) rich text format (RTF), 3) Web page (.htm), 4) PDF, etc.

Google Docs and LibreOffice

- You can easily upload the Word file to Google Docs and share it with students or other teachers.
- You can translate a Google Docs file into another language (see Tools>Translate document) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. Google Docs can translate into over 100 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and German.
- LibreOffice is a free alternate to Microsoft Office and offers the same functionality. It’s easy to install and use. See: www.libreoffice.org

Did you know...

...that each issue of What In The World? includes a PDF file (complete document) and a Word file (articles and questions only).

Students can complete assignments directly in the Word file. Teachers can email the file to students or post it on the Internet. The Word file also allows teachers to:

- easily modify and format content including changing fonts and text sizes
- create a PDF document and use Adobe Reader’s ‘Read Out Loud Mode’
- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
- promote and encourage students’ computer skills
Help your students understand today’s top stories with **WHAT IN THE WORLD?** – LesPlan’s highly-acclaimed monthly current events resource.

Engaging, levelled articles, background information and original illustrations make the news interesting and easy to grasp. Accompanying questions and assignments provide multiple ways to examine the topics and enhance literacy and critical thinking.

When I have kids in grade 4/5 wanting to know when the next issue is coming, even in December and June, that’s when I know I have an excellent resource.

A. Eisler, Burnaby, BC

It is a relief to have a resource that fits with the curriculum and is teacher-friendly (ready to hand out). The added bonus of having the answers to the questions and discussion notes makes my life just a little bit easier.

B. Thibodeau, Saskatoon, SK

I have been using your product for seven years. There isn't a month that goes by that I don't get into challenging discussions with my students with the leads you provide and go in directions I could never imagine. Thank you for this terrific teaching aid!

D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON
YES, sign me up for the 2024 – 2025 school year and send me the March, April and May issues FREE*

* Offer only applies to new subscriptions.

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<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>Grades 3 and up</td>
<td>$230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ON add 13% HST

NB, NL, NS & PEI add 15% HST

All others add 5% GST

Total

* Receive 11 issues/months for the price of 8. Save $86 off the regular price of $316.

** Receive 11 months for the price of 8. Save $132 off the regular price of $572.

Deliver to (please print clearly)

Name

School

Address

City Province/Territory Postal Code

Email

* Email required for password notification

Billing Options

☐ Bill school ☐ Purchase Order P.O. #

Please charge to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number Expiry Date (MM/YY)

Cardholder Name CVV Code

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