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LEVEL 1 (GRADES 5 AND UP)

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Total Solar Eclipse!

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SAMPLE EDITION
2023/2024: ISSUE 6



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WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Level 1, 2023/2024: Issue 6

PUBLISHER

Eric Wieczorek

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Janet Radschun Wieczorek

ILLUSTRATOR

Mike Deas

CONTRIBUTORS

Vivien Bowers

Krista Clarke

Rosa Harris

Catriona Misfeldt

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LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.



#1 - 4144 Wilkinson Road

Victoria BC V8Z 5A7

www.lesplan.com

info@lesplan.com

LesPlan

PHONE: (toll free) 888 240-2212

FAX: (toll free) 888 240-2246

TWITTER: @LesPlan

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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.

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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



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THE DISAPPEARING SUN

– TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

BEFORE READING

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.yout-ube.com/watch?v=hyf5JF_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.



THE DISAPPEARING SUN

— TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8



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

DEFINITIONS

ELLIPTICAL: shaped like an oval

HERALD: to be a sign that (something) is about to happen



THE DISAPPEARING SUN

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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

STAYING SAFE

As amazing as the eclipse will be, it's not safe to look at it without protection. The infrared radiation can cause permanent eye damage. Sunglasses aren't enough. Looking through dark material such as a garbage bag won't cut it, either. The same goes for using binoculars or a telescope that don't have a solar filter. You need to wear special eclipse glasses to view an eclipse.

If you don't have eclipse glasses, you can build a pinhole camera to observe the shadow cast by the Moon in miniature.

You can also experience the eclipse with your ears! One free app, Soundscapes, includes an interactive "Rumble Map." It transforms the eclipse into a touch- and sound-based experience. Another option is to build a LightSound Device, developed at Harvard University. It outputs sound based on detected brightness. As the Moon blocks the Sun, the sound levels decrease.

The tools were developed for the Blind and Low Vision community, but anyone can use them to safely enhance the eclipse experience.

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. ★

DEFINITIONS

NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration – an independent agency of the U.S. federal government responsible for the civil space program, aeronautics research, and space research



THE DISAPPEARING SUN

– TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

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.



THE DISAPPEARING SUN

– TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

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

1. What is a solar eclipse?

<https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/eclipses/solar-eclipses.asp>

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=DUCLzPIInVLQ> [1:10]

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/science/space/how-to-prepare-for-the-april-8-total-solar-eclipse-across-eastern-canada>

What did you learn?

3. Where and at what time will the 2024 total solar eclipse be the most visible?

<https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/eclipses/total-solar-eclipse.asp>

<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://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/youth-educators/toolkits/solar-and-lunar-eclipses/>

<https://letstalkscience.ca/search/site?keys=eclipse&op=Search>



THE DISAPPEARING SUN

— TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

INFOGRAPHIC

What is a solar eclipse?

Whoa. It's the middle of the day—so why is the sky getting dark?

It's a Solar Eclipse



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



Sometimes the moon only blocks part of the sun's light. This is called a **partial solar eclipse**. Other times, the moon blocks all of the sun's light. This is called a **total solar eclipse**.

A solar eclipse happens when, at just the right moment, the moon passes between the sun and Earth.

In that path, the moon completely blocks the sun's light for a few minutes. It gets so dark that it looks like night time during a full moon! If you don't know what's happening, it can be confusing. Animals can get confused too. But this total darkness can also be kind of cool for scientists who study the sun's atmosphere, called the **corona**.



As the moon blocks the sun's light, it casts a shadow on part of the Earth. The moon's shadow creates a path as Earth rotates. This path is called the **path of totality**. If you want to experience total darkness during an eclipse, you have to be in the path of totality.

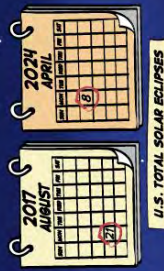
CORONA

The corona is very dim. It's usually hard to see because the sun is so much brighter. But, when the moon blocks the sun's light during an eclipse, all you can see is the light from the corona!

But when they do happen, the moon gives scientists—and the rest of us—a glimpse at the corona's beautiful streams and ribbons.
Thanks, moon!

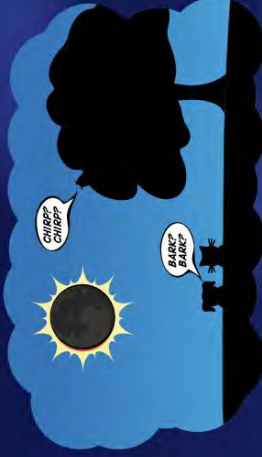


YOU'RE WELCOME!



U.S. TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES

Total solar eclipses over the land—where people can see them—don't happen very often.



CHIRP CHIRP

BARK BARK

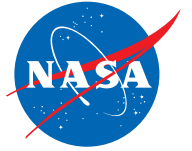


Note: For information about how to safely view an eclipse, go here: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety> For more information, visit spaceplace.nasa.gov/eclipse-snap



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT THE DISAPPEARING SUN

– TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8



INFOGRAPHIC

Experience a Solar Eclipse



Credit: S. Habbal, M. Druckmüller and P. Aniol

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.

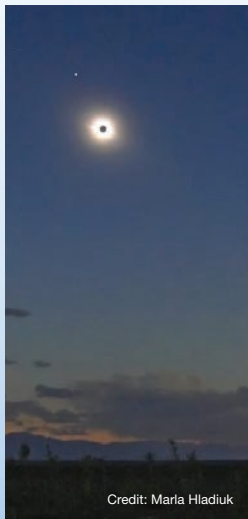
Annular Solar Eclipse

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.

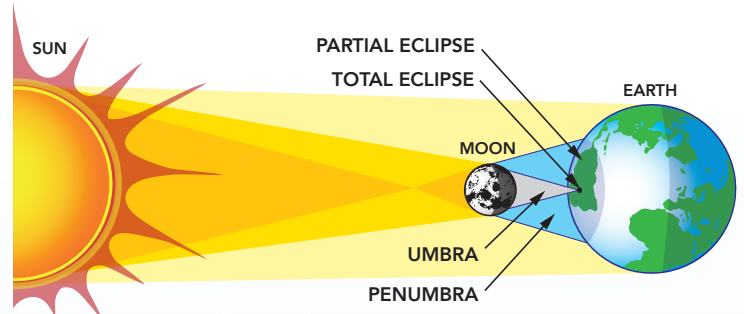
Partial Solar Eclipse

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.

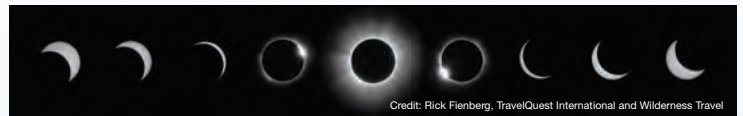


Credit: Marla Hladiuk

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



Not to scale: If drawn to scale, the Moon would be 30 Earth diameters away from Earth. The Sun would be 400 times that distance.



Credit: Rick Fienberg, TravelQuest International and Wilderness Travel

In this series of stills from 2013, the eclipse sequence runs from right to left. The center image shows totality; on either side are the 2nd contact (right) and 3rd contact (left) diamond rings that mark the beginning and end of totality respectively.



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.



Credit: International Space Station

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/>



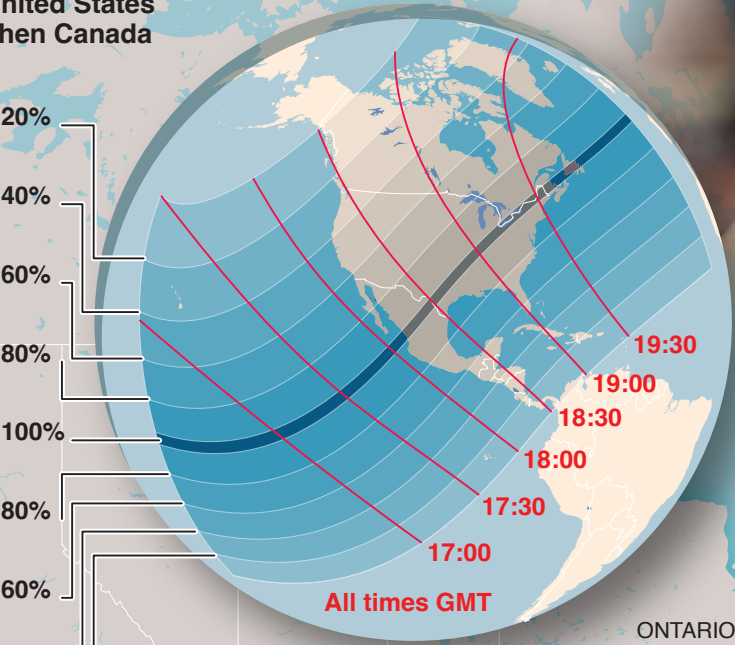
THE DISAPPEARING SUN

- TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

INFOGRAPHIC

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



End: Catalina, Newfoundland 19:46GMT

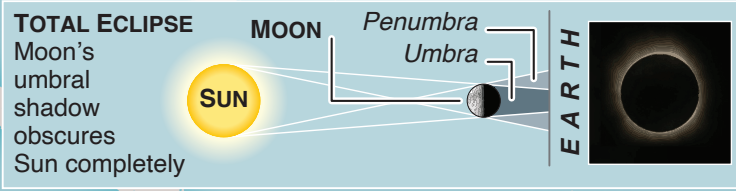
More than 31 million people live inside path of totality in U.S.

GREATEST DURATION
4 min, 28 secs
at 18:17GMT,
Nazas, Mexico

Start:
Mazatlán,
Mexico
18:07GMT

TOTALITY PATH
Width 185km
(115 miles)
average

Never look directly at eclipse with naked eye, binoculars, cameras or telescopes without specialised solar filters



Source: NASA

Picture: Getty Images

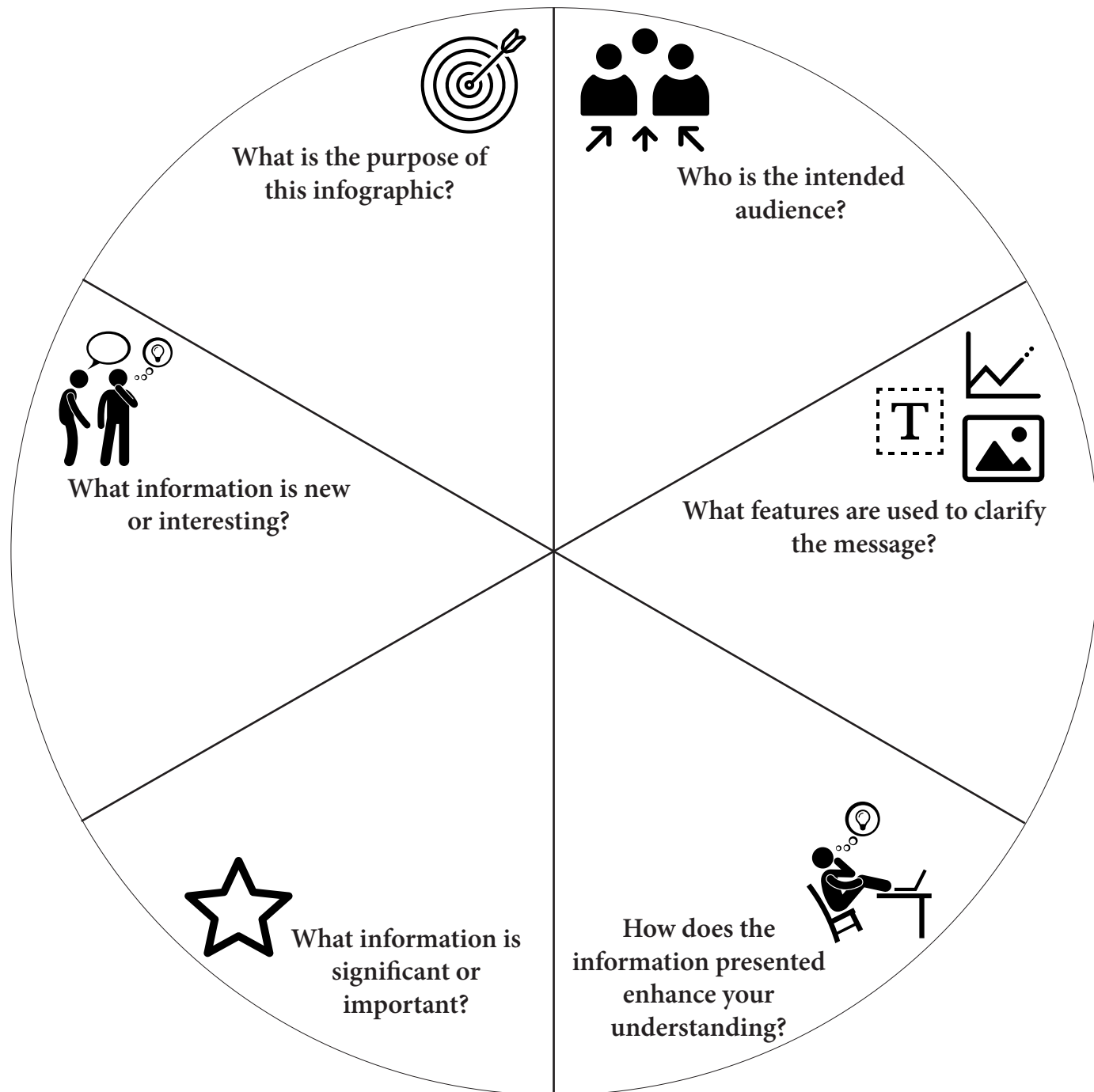
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THE DISAPPEARING SUN

- TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

ANALYZING AN INFOGRAPHIC



What questions do you still have about the topic presented?

MAP ASSIGNMENT SOLAR ECLIPSE

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

New Brunswick

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

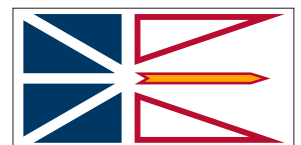
Part H Locate and label the following and shade all fresh water light blue:

Lake Superior Lake Michigan Lake Huron
Lake Erie Lake Ontario

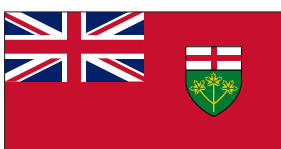
Part I Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Ottawa River St. Lawrence River

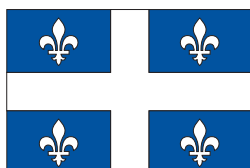
Part J Complete your map with a frame, title, and compass. ★



Newfoundland and Labrador



Ontario



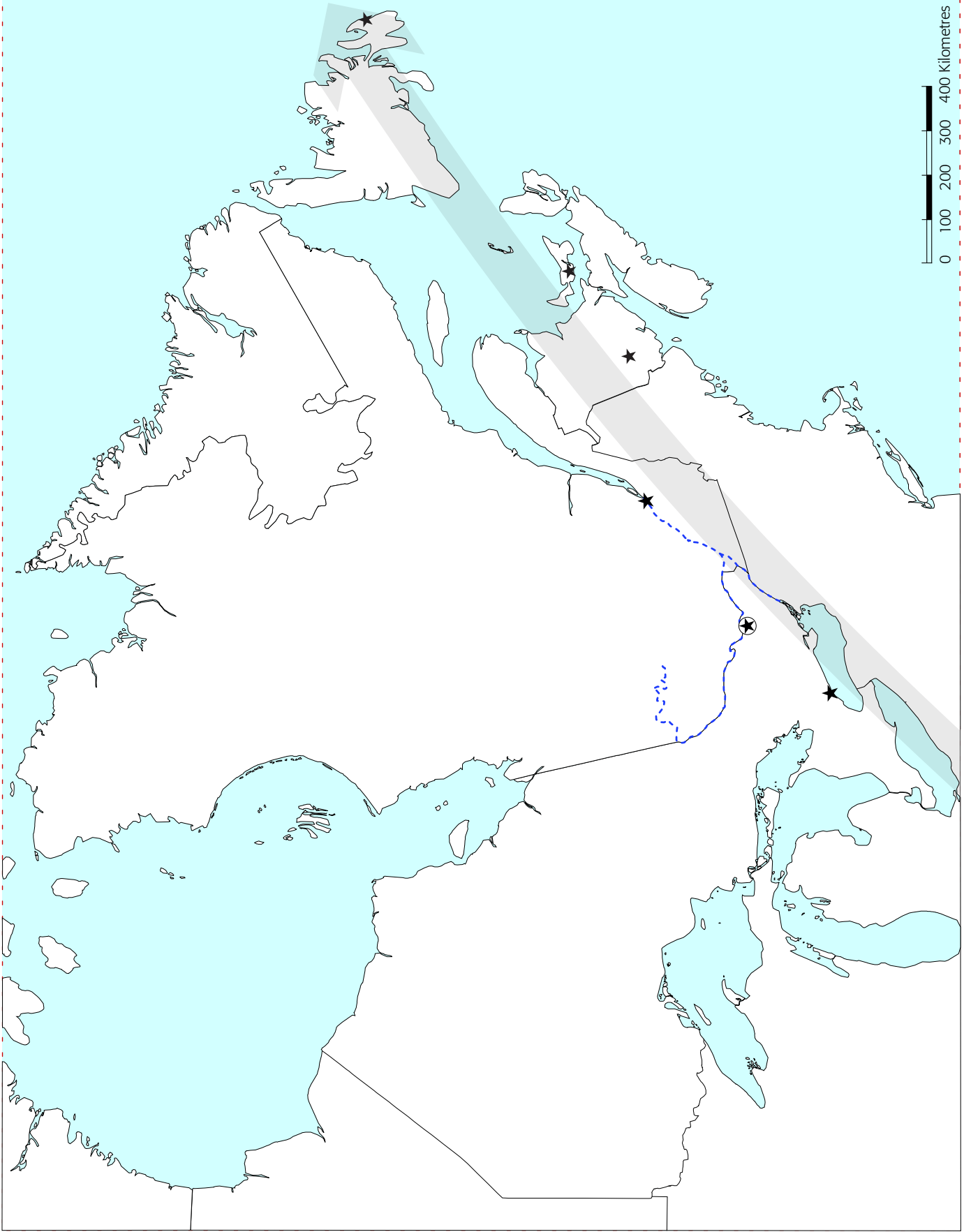
Quebec



New Brunswick



PEI





THE DISAPPEARING SUN

– TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO OCCUR IN PARTS OF CANADA ON APRIL 8

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.
- 9. NASA: National Aeronautic and _____ Administration.

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.



SETTING A PURPOSE BEFORE READING

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.

Purpose for reading	What it looks like
For enjoyment	Usually student-selected. Allows students to choose a variety of genres and forms. Allows students to pursue what interests them while developing reading skills.
To experience something new	Students make connections between their personal experiences and those of people around the world.
To learn more about themselves and others	Students reflect on what they've read and express opinions and perspectives. Students develop a sense of their personal values and make sense of the world around them.
To gain information	Students use the features of informational texts to gather, analyse and apply what they've learned.
To understand issues	Students develop a sense of perspective. Students pose questions, acknowledge other points of view, critique the opinions presented and support opinions with evidence.
To appreciate writing	Students respond to text in ways other than written answers to apply what they've learned in new contexts.
To appreciate use of media to communicate	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.

* Chart adapted from: A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, Grades 4-6, p. 11.

Current Events, Clearly Explained



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).

Currents4Kids.com News4Youth.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.
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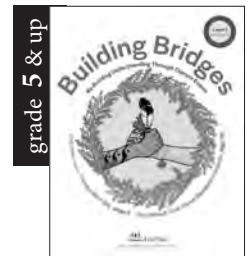
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Product details: 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

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- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ Builds understanding of current events that impact Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians
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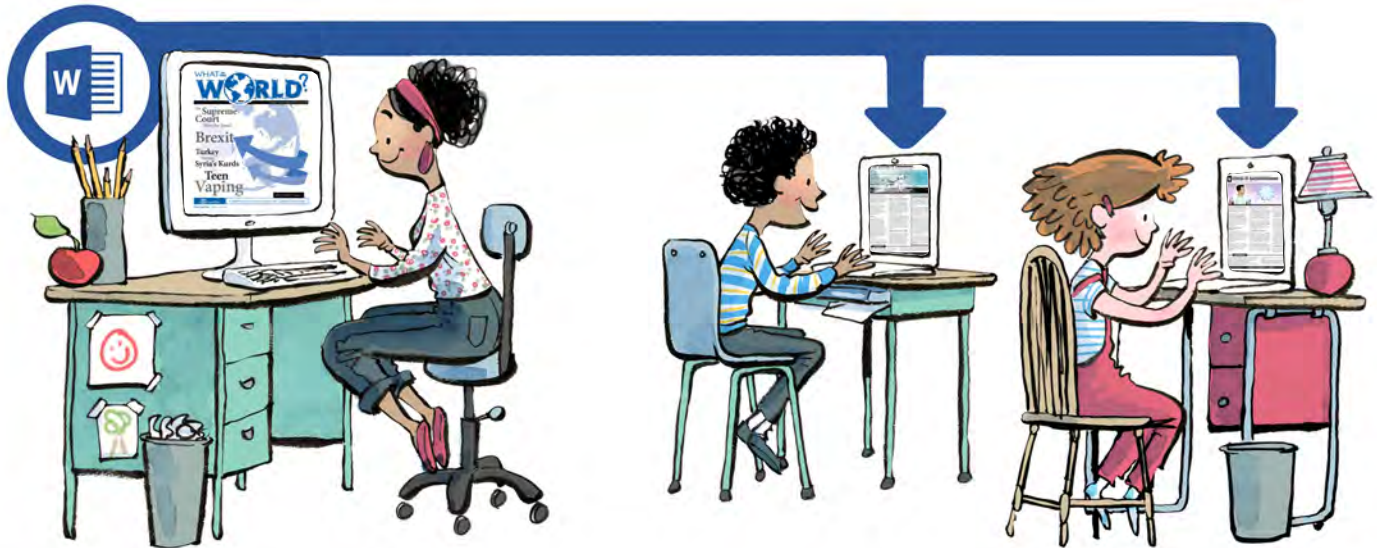
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Data in the Word file

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.
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 China has the largest population in the world – 1.4 billion. Some 91.5 percent are Han Chinese. 8.5 percent are minorities. Xinjiang is a territory in northwest China. It became part of China in 1949. In theory the region is autonomous. In practice, the Chinese government controls it.

The population of Xinjiang is 22 million. About 11 million are Uighur Muslims who speak a language similar to Turkish. Xinjiang's traditional economy is based on agriculture and trade. But the region is rich in oil and other resources, and the economy has been developing. That's prompted many Han Chinese from China's eastern areas to move to Xinjiang. Han Chinese now make up 40 percent of the territory's population. Many local Uighurs resent them because they are perceived to get the best jobs.

Uighur communities also exist in neighbouring countries, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. These countries used to be part of the Soviet Union. But they gained independence in the 1990s, when the Soviet Union collapsed. That inspired some Xinjiang Uighurs to start a separatist movement. However, China's harsh response to these activities forced separatists underground.

activity' among Uighur Muslims are plotting attacks and stirring up tension between Uighurs and Han Chinese.

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