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Subject: Message #135: Ideas for the Upcoming Solar Eclipse

Date: August 10, 2017

To: ccss@list.state.ar.us

From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dear Arkansas Educators,

On Monday August 21, 2017, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible in the continental U.S. for the first time in almost 40 years. A total eclipse is when the Sun is completely hidden by the Moon, the sky becomes dark, and the Sun's corona becomes visible, looking like a halo. Here in Arkansas there will be a partial eclipse, in which the Moon covers only a portion of the Sun. Starting around lunchtime, Arkansas will experience almost 98% of the Moon covering the Sun. Maximum coverage will be in the early afternoon. Classroom teachers are encouraged to consult with their school librarians for additional resources and opportunities to design activities highlighting the solar eclipse.

Ways To Watch the Eclipse Safely When Part of the Sun Is Still Visible:

Pinhole Projectors to Indirectly View the Sun

If you don't have safe glasses, a good way to see the eclipse is to project an image of the partially eclipsed Sun. One easy method is to make a pinhole projector. You can also make such a pinhole projector inside a box, such as a cereal box or a tube or poster shipping box. Again, the image of the eclipsed sun on the box will be quite small, but it will be distinct. Near the time of maximum coverage, nature's shadows will produce pinhole images of the partial eclipse. You can find instructions for

- a cereal box viewer at http://hilaroad.com/camp/projects/eclipse_viewer/eclipse_viewer.html; and
- a UPS triangular shipping box viewer at www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/how.html

Sun Filters to Look Directly at the Sun

To look at the Sun directly, except during the total phase of the eclipse, you need a good filter that can cut out not just its intense light but also its ultraviolet and infrared waves. Sunglasses and smoked glass are NOT OK! Alternatively, you can use special black or aluminized polymer filters or glasses available at many stores; but make sure you get them from a reliable source.

Safety note: Never look at the Sun without suitable eye protection! Always use protection such as:

- Solar Eclipse Glasses
- Certified Solar Filter Material
- #14 Arc Welder's Glass

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.





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Download: [An Observer's Guide to Viewing the Eclipse](#)

Sources:

[National Science Teachers Association](#)

[Central Arkansas Astronomical Society](#)

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