



Webquest: The Mythology of the Solar Eclipse to
Accompany the book

“Who Turned Off the Sun?”

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by Lisa Combs and Pam Fraizer

Introduction:

In ancient times, people had many unanswered questions about the world around them. Oftentimes, they used their current knowledge, religious or cultural beliefs, along with their imaginations to develop elaborate stories that answered these questions. The stories they created are called myths and usually involve gods and goddesses or other powerful beings and creatures. The myths created thousands of years ago often tell how or why various natural phenomena (like the solar eclipse) came to be. Each of the myths referenced in this book are much more complex and detailed in their full form. Some of the myths are only one of several different versions that involve the solar eclipse from the perspective of the referenced cultures. The reader is encouraged to go on the following webquest to research each of them in more depth to fully appreciate the creativity, belief systems and cultural evolution from which these myths arose.

Task:

The learner will research various ancient cultural myths surrounding the total solar eclipse and create their choice of:

- A written report (single student)
- A graphic/original artwork display with oral presentation (single student)
- A multimedia presentation (individual or partnership of 2)
- A short sketch (group of 2-4 students)

The final product will depict what the student(s) learned about at least 5 different myths surrounding the total solar eclipse, including at least ONE that was NOT mentioned in the book, *Who Turned Off the Sun?*.

Process:

The student(s) should read *Who Turned Off the Sun?* by Lisa Combs and Pam Fraizer as a launchpad to learning. Then student(s) should go through the following steps to thoroughly research the subject in developing their final product:

- Take note of clues provided in the book to different cultural mythology.
- Jot down any information that may prove helpful in finding the myths referenced in the books.
- Visit the provided websites to try and discover the origin of some of the beliefs mentioned in the book.
- Choose 5 examples of myths from different cultures to focus on for the creation of the final product. *You can use the clues you picked up from the book to find 4 of the 5 myths in your final product.*
- Include at least one example of a myth that YOU learned about that was NOT mentioned in the book, “Who Turned Off the Sun?”

Resources

Digital reading of “Who Turned Off the Sun?” on YouTube.

<https://www.almanac.com/solar-eclipse-folklore-myths-and-superstitions>

<https://kidseclipse.com/myths-stories-historical/>

<https://www.rainbowsymphony.com/blogs/blog/the-meaning-of-an-eclipse-to-cultures-throughout-history>

<https://www.britannica.com/list/the-sun-was-eaten-6-ways-cultures-have-explained-eclipses#:~:text=Disguised%20as%20a%20woman%2C%20Rahu,the%20Sun%20during%20an%20eclipse.>

<https://www.vox.com/culture/2017/8/18/16078886/total-solar-eclipse-folklore>

<https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2017/08/solar-eclipse-awe-wonder-and-belief/>

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/eclipse-stories-from-around-the-world>

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar-eclipse-myths.html>

Evaluation:

Each final product will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- *Final product correctly identifies the cultural origin of at least 5 myths surrounding the total solar eclipse.*
- *Final product clearly depicts the basic story of the 5 selected myths through written summary, original artwork/graphics, multimedia or acting out.*
- *Student(s) included at least one myth that was NOT included in “Who Turned Off the Sun?”*
- *Student(s) answer(s) questions from the teacher and fellow students about the selected myths upon presentation of final product.*
- *Overall final product is of “finished quality” (proofread, neat, organized and complete).*

For each of the above criteria, the following points are possible, with a total possible score of 15 points:

- *3 points = criteria fully addressed*
- *2 points = criteria is partially addressed*
- *1 points = criteria is addressed insufficiently and/or inaccurately*
- *0 points = criteria not included at all*