

Ancient Beliefs on Total Solar Eclipses

Chinese and Vietnamese

-Chinese and Vietnamese believed long ago that it was demons who ate the sun!

Hindy

-Also believed that demons ate the sun as well. They actually believed by banging on pots and pans they could cause the demon to be frightened away!

Bear-eating Sun

-North Americans had a legend of a bear who got into a fight with the sun, and actually took a bite out of the sun! (Went on to fight with the moon as well, causing lunar eclipse which is the opposite of a solar eclipse).

Italy

-In modern day Italy, people believe that planting flowers during an eclipse can ultimately lead to the flowers blooming into brighter than usual and more colorful!

Time for Reconciliation

-Some believed the people on earth had to resolve their differences in order for the moon to unblock the sun.

Don't Go Outside!!

-Even today, some people believe it is bad luck for women who are pregnant as well as children to go outdoors during a solar eclipse.

India

-People in India, believe any food cooked during a solar eclipse could possibly be poison!

<http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2006/multimedia/storyteller.php>

This resource also gives different myths and misconceptions about solar eclipses as Jordan Hill gives them in a storytelling format. This is a great way for students to learn about different myths as it is a different format than just research on the subject.

There is a video and short description for each story. He is very engaging and I think your students would enjoy this!

References:

"8 Brilliant Myths Which Come with a Solar Eclipse." *BT.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 June 2016. <<http://home.bt.com/news/science-news/8-brilliant-myths-which-come-with-a-solar-eclipse-11363968544220>>.

Lee, Jane J. "Solar Eclipse Myths From Around the World." *National Geographic*. National Geographic Society, 2 Nov. 2013. Web. 10 June 2016.

"Solar Eclipse Myths." *And Superstitions*. Time and Date, n.d. Web. 10 June 2016.