

# When Dragons Swallowed the Sun

How our understanding of solar eclipses has changed over time

## About the Story

Lexile® Measure 810L

For qualitative complexity factors, go to Scope Online.

**Learning Objective:** to read a short informational text then craft a constructed response that includes a claim, text evidence, and commentary

**Featured Skill:** constructed response

**Additional skills in this lesson plan:** identifying central ideas and details

### Standards:

The article and its suite of support materials support these Common Core anchor standards: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.6, W.2

For more standards information—including TEKS—go to Scope Online.

## Your Teaching Package

Find your full suite of support materials at [scope.scholastic.com](https://scope.scholastic.com).

### Audio:

- Article read-aloud
- Text-to-speech
- Vocabulary

### Video:

- "What You Need to Know About Solar Eclipses"

### Activities to print, project, or share digitally:

- Vocabulary: Definitions and Practice
- Short Write Kit
- Core Skills Workout: Central Ideas and Details\*
- Quiz\*

\*Available on two levels

# Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

## 1. Prepare to Read (10 minutes)

### Watch a Video (5 minutes)

Show students the video “What You Need to Know About Solar Eclipses” to build background knowledge and provide a visual of solar eclipses before students read the article.

### Preview Vocabulary (5 minutes)

Project the Google Slides version of **Vocabulary: Definitions and Practice** on your whiteboard. Review the definitions and complete the activity as a class. Highlighted words: *eerie*, *filter*, *nocturnal*, *solar*. Audio pronunciations of the words and a read-aloud of the definitions are embedded on the slides. Optionally, print the PDF version or share the slideshow link directly to your LMS and have students preview the words and complete the activity independently before class.

## 2. Read and Discuss (20 minutes)

- For students’ first read, have them follow along as they listen to the **audio read-aloud**, located in the Resources tab in Teacher View and at the top of the story page in Student View.
- Have students read the story again.
- Optionally, divide students into groups to complete the **Core Skills Workout: Central Ideas and Details** activity. This graphic organizer asks students to identify the central idea and supporting details of each section of the article and the central idea of the article as a whole. (This activity comes on two levels, with more or less scaffolding.)

### 3. Write About It

(20 minutes)

Have students complete the **Short Write Kit**. This activity guides students to write a claim, support it with text evidence, and provide commentary in response to the prompt on page 21 in the printed magazine and at the bottom of the digital story page:

*How has our understanding of solar eclipses changed over time?*  
*Answer this question in a well-organized paragraph. Use text evidence.*