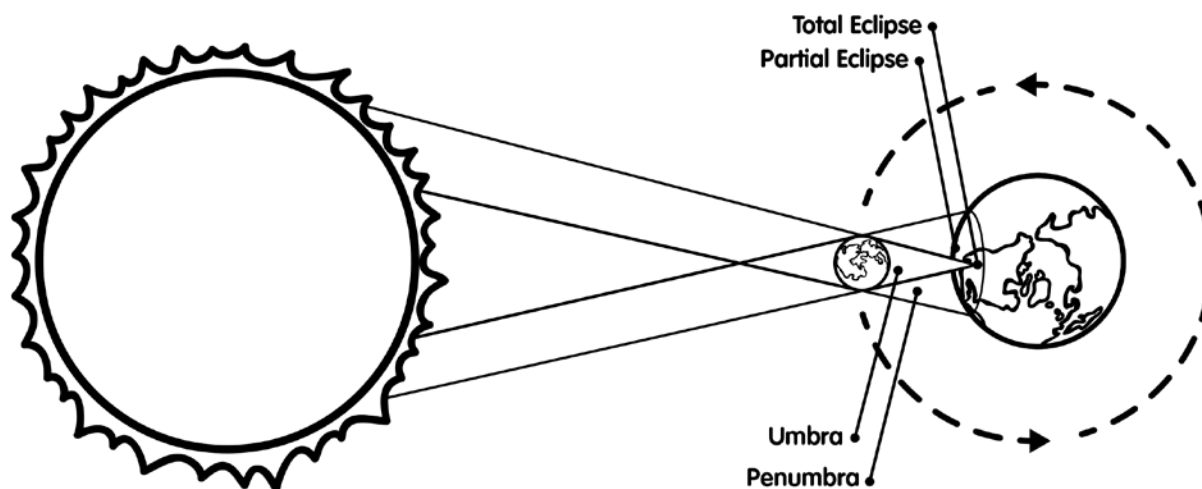


## What is a Solar Eclipse?

Have you ever seen the day turn into night for a few minutes? This rare and fascinating event is called a solar eclipse. A solar eclipse happens when the moon moves between the earth and the sun. The moon blocks the sun's light from reaching the earth. This can make it look like the sun has disappeared from the sky.

## How Does a Solar Eclipse Occur?

The sun, moon, and earth are constantly moving. The earth orbits, or goes around, the sun, and the moon orbits the earth. Sometimes, the moon travels between the sun and the earth. When this happens, the moon casts a shadow on the Earth. If you are standing in the dark part of the shadow, known as the umbra, you will see a total solar eclipse. If you are in the lighter part of the shadow, called the penumbra, you will see a partial solar eclipse. This is the outer part of the shadow.



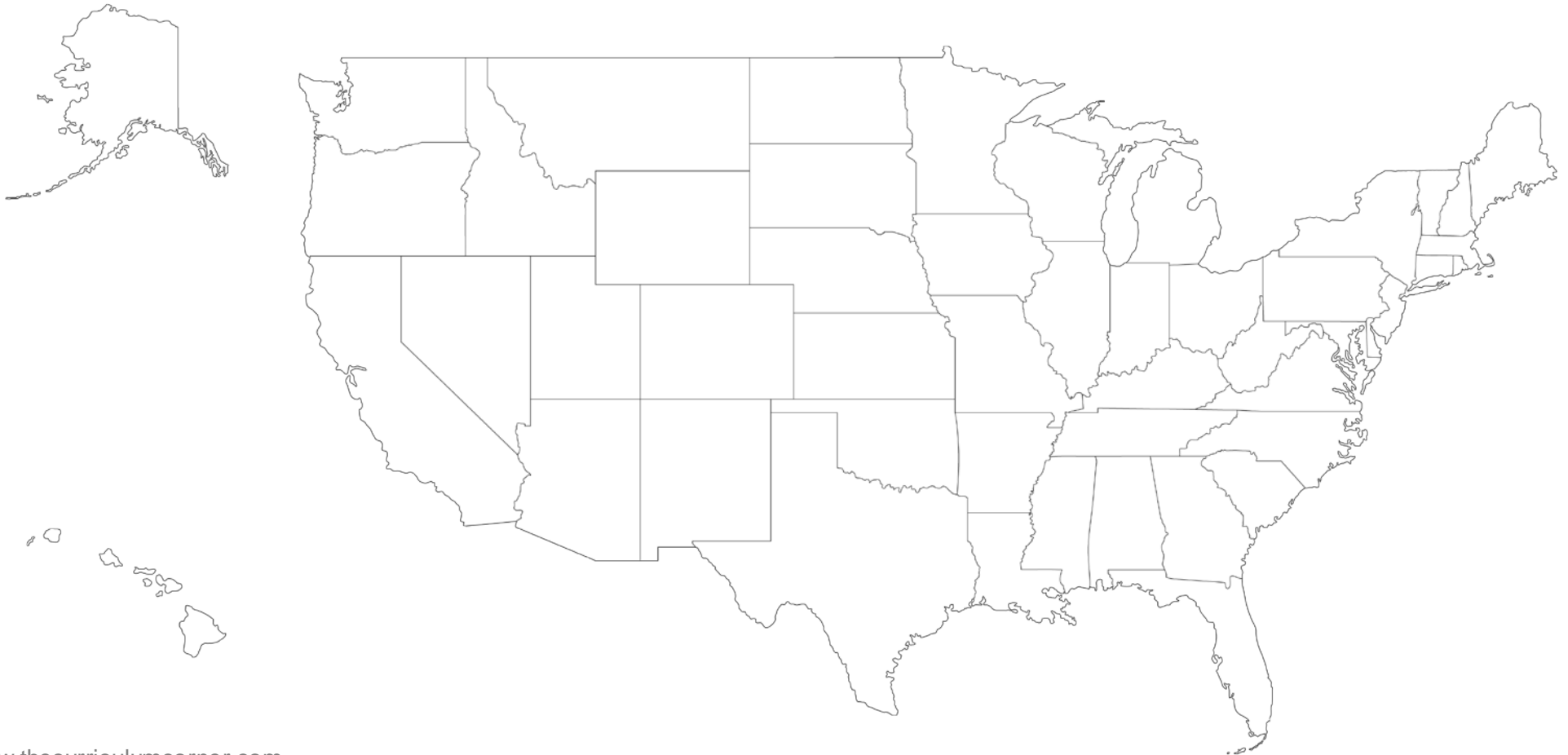
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Monday, April 8, 2024

We will experience a total solar eclipse on this day. There will not be another total solar eclipse visible in the contiguous United States until 2044! A clear sky will allow us to experience the full eclipse. However, even a cloudy day will give us darkness in the daytime.

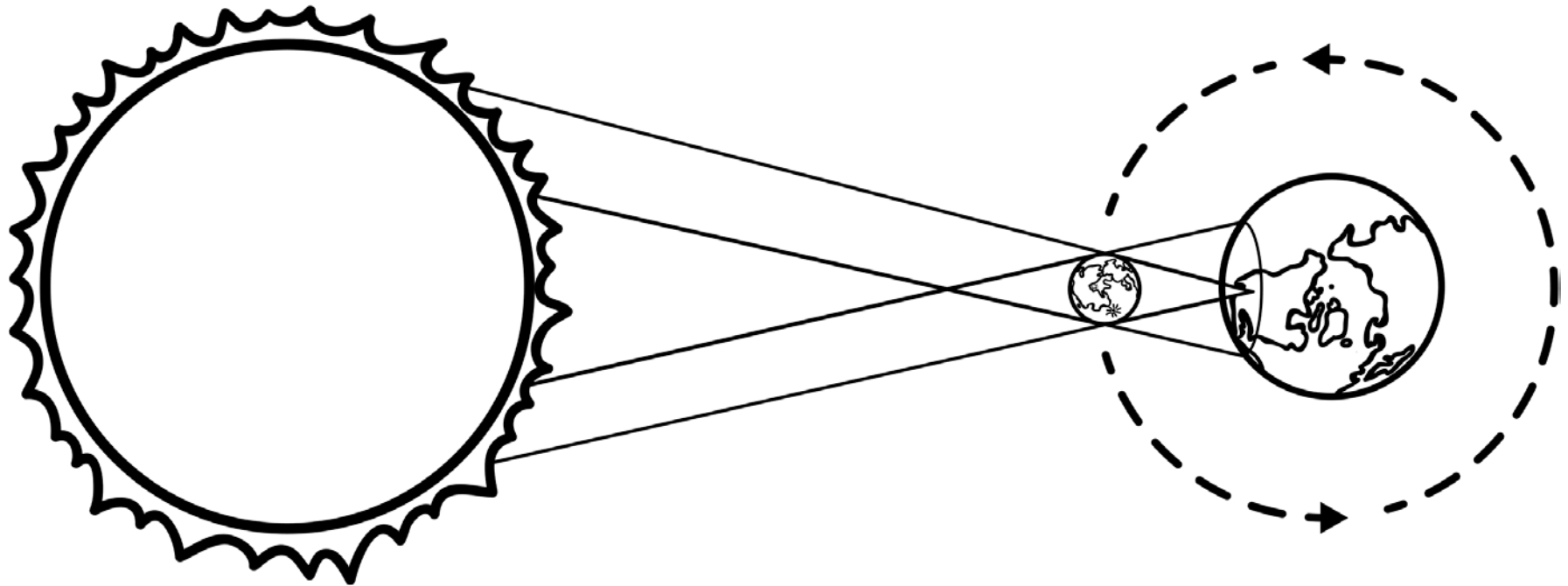
### Path of Totality

The path of totality shows us the locations on earth that will experience a total solar eclipse. If you are outside the path of totality, you may observe a partial solar eclipse. Draw the path of totality on the map below.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Label the parts of a solar eclipse below. Around the page, add notes about what you have learned about solar eclipses.





## The Dragon That Eats the Sun: A Chinese Myth

In ancient China, people looked up at the sky with wonder when a solar eclipse occurred. They believed the sky held a powerful kingdom, home to dragons and other mystical creatures. To explain the sudden darkness of a solar eclipse, they told a fascinating story.

They believed a gigantic dragon lived in the sky. It was a celestial dragon, one of the most powerful creatures in Chinese mythology. Unlike dragons that might guard treasures or live in the oceans, this dragon had a taste for the sun.

The story goes that every now and then, this enormous dragon would grow hungry. When it did, it would look around for its favorite snack. It would find the sun shining brightly in the sky. To the people watching from Earth, it seemed as if the sun was being devoured right before their eyes. This was how they explained the sudden darkness during the day – the dragon was eating the sun!

But the story doesn't end there. The people believed that the sun was vital for life. It brought daylight and warmth. Without the sun, the crops wouldn't grow, and life on Earth would be in danger. So, to save the sun and themselves, the people would come together during a solar eclipse. They made as much noise as possible, banging drums, clashing cymbals, and setting off fireworks. They believed their loud noises would scare the mighty dragon away, forcing it to spit out the sun and return light to the world.

This myth shows how important the sun was to ancient people and how they used their imagination and cultural beliefs to explain natural events they didn't understand. It also highlights the community's role in facing and solving big problems together. They used courage and unity to bring back the light.



## The Hidden Sun: A Greek Myth



In ancient Greece, gods and goddesses were believed to live atop a high mountain called Olympus. These mythical beings had the power to control nature. People created a special story to explain why the sun sometimes disappeared during the day, causing a solar eclipse.

Apollo was the guardian of light and the sun. Every day, he would ride his chariot across the sky, pulling the sun behind him to bring warmth and light to the earth. This daily journey was his duty that brought order and harmony to the earth. Sometimes, the gods got upset or sad and they would send a message to the people on Earth.

Zeus, the king of all gods, had the power to decide when the sun should take a break. The gods would become unhappy if the mortals were too prideful or there was too much injustice in the world. At other times, the gods would be sad and mourning a loss in their family. When either the humans needed correcting or the gods felt sorrow, Zeus might tell Apollo to hide the sun for a little while. This made the day turn into night suddenly.

The Greeks believed that during these dark times, they needed to come together. They would pray and offer gifts to the gods to make them happy again. Their goal was to bring back the light by appeasing the gods.

This myth taught people important lessons about respecting the gods and the power of working together. To the Greeks, everything in nature was connected to the gods, and a solar eclipse was a big reminder of that connection.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Myths from Around the World

**Directions:** Can you find how other cultures have viewed solar eclipses throughout history? Choose four different groups of people. In each box, explain the story these people told to explain an eclipse.

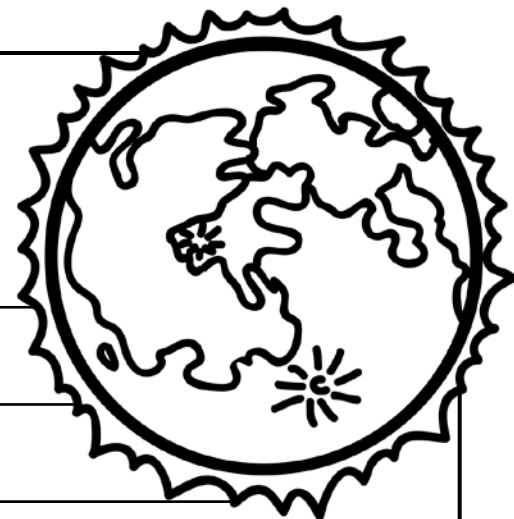
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Myths from Around the World

**Directions:** Can you find how other cultures have viewed solar eclipses throughout history? Choose four different groups of people. In each box, explain the story these people told to explain an eclipse.

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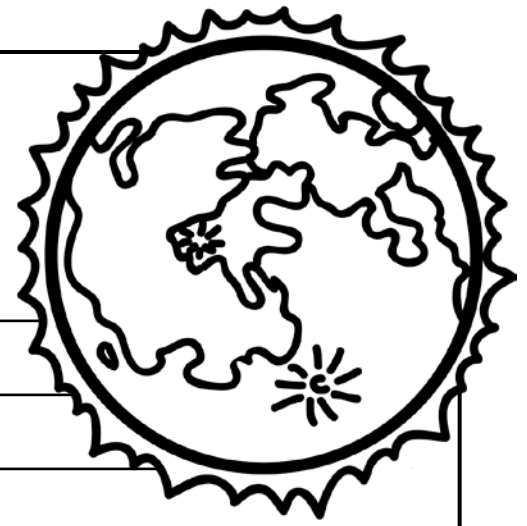
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A set of horizontal writing lines for a worksheet. There are 13 lines in total. The first line is positioned at the top, below a short horizontal line that starts with an indent and extends about halfway across the page. The remaining 12 lines are spaced evenly down the page, providing a large area for writing.

**solar eclipse**

An event that occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun, blocking all or part of the sun's light.

**corona**

The outer atmosphere of the sun, which can be seen during a total solar eclipse.

**umbra**

The darkest part of a shadow, where the light source is completely blocked.

**penumbra**

The lighter part of a shadow, where the light source is only partially blocked.

**totality**

The phase during a total solar eclipse when the sun is completely covered by the moon.