

Eclipse

Name: _____

Period: _____

What Is the 2017 Solar Eclipse?

The moon's orbit will intersect with the sun's orbit on August 21, 2017 around 1:30PM. The intersection of the moon and sun will cause the sun to be blotted out from the sky, casting darkness over the land.

What's The Big Deal?

This will be the first solar eclipse in one hundred years where the 70 mile wide path of the eclipse runs from coast to coast in the U.S. When the eclipse is at totality there will be about two and a half minutes of darkness, but for an hour and a half leading up to totality, the sky will be darkening and the temperature will drop. Only fourteen U.S. states will experience totality, of those, Kentucky is a state that will experience the longest period of totality, which will take place within our region of the state.

Why Should I Care?

Our daily routines are dictated by the movement of three heavenly bodies: the earth, the sun, and the moon. Everything from our sleep patterns to the seasons and the tides are controlled by the harmonious dance these three spheres are constantly engaged in. When these three objects behave in a way that is atypical, something triggers inside our human brains and bodies telling us that our routine has been broken. So when the moon blocks the light of the sun something unexplainable happens and we are witness to what seems an otherworldly event, and it can be scary, unsettling, beautiful, and amazing because it triggers something primal in our brains.

What Is the Impact Of All The Visitors To Our Region?

Hopkinsville will have an estimated 500,000 visitors, Clarksville 200,000, and Madisonville 100,000. How will this impact the daily lives of residents? Think about this—the cellular network in these areas were build, say in Hopkinsville, for a population of about 40,000. What will happen when half-a-million people are jamming up the network? What about the amount of food and fuel these cities have on hand? Then consider the logistics of lodging. Where will all of these visitors stay? Most towns in the path of totality will witness an economic boom during the eclipse weekend.

Assignment

In the space below (or on another sheet), write a three paragraph personal narrative that tells about your eclipse experience. Your response should include specific details about the eclipse or the events surrounding the eclipse. Make sure to include information about how witnessing this event made you feel.