



YOUNG ARCHER

Sunday

By Diana Cormack

After all the excitement about the recent eclipse of the sun, we are back to the daily routine of only noticing it when we get too much or not enough of it.

For people living in the city that is quite normal and we tend to forget just how much our lives depend on the sun shining. But try thinking about it when you're eating breakfast cereal or having an apple at playtime or enjoying a piece of chocolate. You will find that what we eat, what we wear and the majority of things that we use depend on the heat and light of the sun for their basic existence. The people who make these products expect to be supplied with what they need and they get most of it from farmers, who depend upon the right amount of sun to successfully grow, ripen and harvest their crops.

Sun Gods

Years ago, when there were no shops or factories, everyone had to grow their own food as well as know which berries and nuts were safe for them to pick and eat. They made their own clothes and built their own houses using things which grew around them. Although they did not really know what the sun was, they did know that their lives depended upon it and so they worshipped it and made up many stories to explain its existence. To the Egyptians it

was the god Ra, the creator. To the Greeks it was Helios or Apollo the God of the Sun, which is what the Romans called it too. The Angles and Saxons, who came from over the North Sea to live in England centuries ago, had their own story about the sun.

Sun's Day

They believed in Baldur, the God of Light, a good-looking, brave and much loved god who reigned over the world where it was always light. But a god who was jealous of Baldur killed him and he ended up in the Land of the Shadows. To remind them of this sad story, the sun set every evening, covering the earth with dark shadows. But it rose again every morning, with its brightness reminding them that one day Baldur the Beautiful would return and there would be no more darkness. So they worshipped the sun in remembrance of Baldur on the first day of their week which they called Sonnendaeg, the Sun's Day. Like many other countries, it is what we still call it today.

Clever Clogs Corner

1. How many planets revolve around the sun?
2. Which is the third planet from the sun?
3. Is the sun a planet or a star?
4. How long does it take for the sun's light to reach us?
5. Which planet is nearest to the sun?
6. Which planet is furthest away from the sun?
7. How long does it take for the earth to go round the sun?
8. Why do we get day and night?
9. Where is Sun City?
10. Who flew too close to the sun?

Answers
 1. Nine planets.
 2. The earth.
 3. The sun is a star.
 4. Over eight minutes.
 5. Mercury.
 6. Pluto.
 7. One year.
 8. Because the earth spins around on an axis, so we move to face the sun then go round away from it.
 9. South Africa.
 10. Icarus.

Did You Know?

In 585BC an eclipse happened whilst two armies were fighting a battle.

Both sides were so shocked that they made peace!

Sayings about the Sun

People all over the world have proverbs about the sun.

Can you work out what these sayings mean?

- "Never in a month of Sundays"
- "Make hay while the sun shines" - English
- "He that hath a head of wax may not walk in the sun" - Latin
- "Stars are not seen by sunshine" - Spanish
- "It is not necessary to light a candle to the sun" - Chinese

Jokes

Here are some jokes to cheer you up about going back to school.

Teacher: Why are you chewing toffees in my lesson?

Pupil: Because I couldn't get any chocolate, Sir.

Pat: I like teachers sometimes.

Sam: When?

Pat: When they're at home.

Teacher: Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Don't you think that's incredible?

Pupil: Not really. It's going downhill isn't it?

Pupil: Coke can, crisp packet, banana skin...

Teacher: Stop talking rubbish.

Teacher: In the exam you will be allowed half an hour for each question.

Pupil: How long for the answer, Sir?

Pupil: Teacher, teacher, why do you keep putting me in this cage?

Teacher: Because you're the teacher's pet.

Mum: Do you think your new teacher likes you, Chris?

Chris: Oh yes mum! She's always putting little kisses next to my sums.

Bumper eclipse wordsearch

A	E	Y	K	S	E	U	L	B	E	Y	B	D	O	O	G	E
P	F	N	O	O	M	E	H	T	N	O	N	A	M	U	A	C
N	R	I	I	S	A	W	T	H	E	L	I	G	H	T	D	N
E	M	S	H	H	T	R	A	E	T	A	L	F	E	H	T	E
D	S	R	A	T	S	E	K	I	L	E	N	I	H	S	N	I
I	R	A	T	S	A	N	O	G	N	I	H	S	I	W	V	C
L	M	R	M	O	O	N	U	K	J	T	U	Z	L	O	X	S
L	M	C	A	S	T	N	O	S	H	A	D	O	W	D	L	H
O	Y	L	H	T	R	A	E	N	O	E	F	I	L	O	O	T
C	N	U	S	E	H	T	T	A	G	N	I	R	A	T	S	I
S	L	P	L	A	N	E	T	E	A	R	T	H	A	I	H	W
D	W	O	D	A	H	S	T	H	G	I	L	N	O	O	M	E
L	V	E	N	U	S	R	A	E	Y	T	H	G	I	L	D	M
R	N	U	S	E	H	T	N	O	G	N	I	K	L	A	W	D
O	N	U	S	E	H	T	S	E	M	O	C	E	R	E	H	E
W	T	P	W	L	A	O	H	N	O	O	M	E	U	L	B	D
O	F	N	O	O	E	R	T	N	E	M	T	L	O	N	E	N
W	O	Y	D	N	S	B	N	A	M	E	C	A	P	S	L	I
T	T	O	A	O	I	I	A	G	A	H	U	L	O	M	Y	L
H	I	G	H	E	R	T	H	A	N	T	H	E	S	U	N	B
L	B	R	S	U	N	B	U	R	N	E	S	P	I	L	C	E
A	R	P	T	S	U	A	N	W	M	V	A	O	D	J	Y	H
T	O	O	N	U	S	E	H	T	F	O	W	O	D	A	H	S
O	T	E	C	N	A	D	N	O	O	M	S	H	T	R	A	E

In the Zone of Totality

By Daphne and Miranda Chamberlain



Fellow hotel guests prepare for the eclipse. Photo: Daphne Chamberlain

Daphne's Story:
The sun was trying to shine in my Devon hotel garden. It was the morning of Eclipse Day and three fellow-guests were setting up a film camera.

After ten o'clock, strange things began to happen. The streaks of sunlight had disappeared behind clouds and the temperature plummeted. Birds started to sing their evening song at the top of their voices; sheep in a neighbouring field huddled together under a hedge and the goldfish in the pond wouldn't take their food.

Around eleven, some birds flew round wildly, an owl hooted - and then everything went very

still. We were waiting for the darkness - but when it came we were completely unprepared.

It dropped down suddenly, like a curtain - night-time dark, though not pitch-black. We all gasped; two of us said together, "It's gone". It was deathly quiet and very eerie.

Two minutes later the curtain lifted. The filmmakers had filmed nothing but grey sky, but they still opened their champagne. One of them said, "I didn't know it would be as strange as that. Here's to the next one".

Later that day, a shopkeeper said, "Well, it wasn't the end of the world - but it felt as if it could be."

Meanwhile, among sand dunes just south of Newquay, my niece and her friends had found a gap in the clouds.

Miranda's Story:
The clouds opened up five minutes before the eclipse. Everyone cheered when we saw the sun. Then a shadow came towards us over the sea. It was so eerie. It was so dark that the cliffs were just vague shadows, but the sky was still greyish. We saw Venus against a blue background.

Everyone went quiet when the sun was in total eclipse. We could see a few automatic streetlights along the coast, and flashes of cameras in the dunes.

The eclipsed sun looked very dark grey - darker than the sky - and Bailey's Beads were normal sun colour. The colours were completely different from the television pictures. Behind us was a big orange sunset, which vanished when the "diamond ring" appeared.

About five seconds after the eclipse, a huge flock of gulls flew out to sea.

It was just amazing. It's something I'll never forget. People said to me, "Why bother going to see it?", but I'm definitely glad I did.