

MAKE YOUR OWN!

SOLAR ECLIPSE

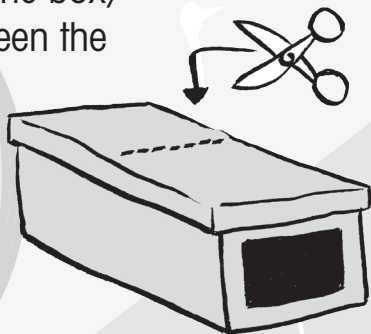
Long ago eclipses were not understood. It was frightening to see daylight disappear as a black disc slowly slid in front of the sun. It was as if the sun had left Earth for good. The word *eclipse* comes from a Greek word meaning "abandon" or "leave." Follow the instructions below to see how an eclipse really works. Remember to never look directly at the real sun as that may damage your eyes.

Supplies

small box
(rectangular)
scissors
construction
paper, black &
other colors

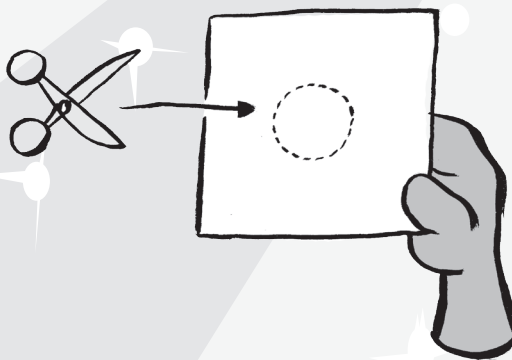
yellow tissue
paper
glue and tape
toothpick
markers

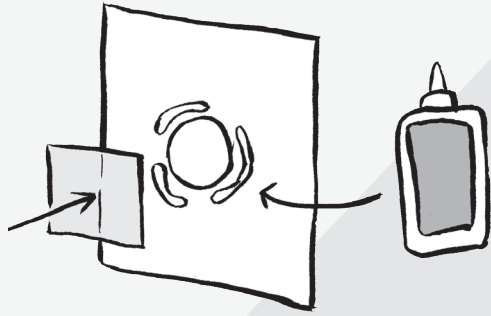
1 Cut out a window at both ends of your box. Make a slit across the top of the box, midway between the ends.



2 From construction paper, cut out a square small enough to fit through the slit.

3 In the center of this small square, draw a circle and cut it out. Glue a piece of yellow tissue paper over the hole to create a mini stained glass window. Set to one side.





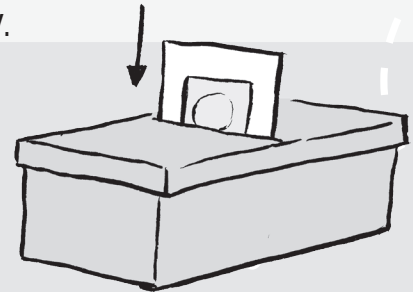
4 On the black construction paper, draw a circle smaller than your first one to represent the moon. Cut the circle out and glue or tape it to a toothpick.



5 Draw two dragons on either side of the box to represent the Chinese solar eclipse myth. Decorate your box with brightly colored paper.

6 Insert the yellow slide, and hold your box toward the light to see your sun shine.

7 To create an eclipse insert the moon in front of the yellow slide and hold it to the light. You can move the moon slowly across the sun to show how an eclipse looks from when the moon just starts to cover the sun to when it covers it completely.



STAR PLAYER

Cygnus, or the Swan, is also called the Northern Cross. Not all cultures throughout history have seen this constellation as a swan. It has been called a horned owl, an ibis, an eagle, and a hen. An ibis is a bird from ancient Egypt. One Greek myth tells of Orpheus the musician. When he played his lyre, a stringed instrument, all the animals came to listen. After he died he was placed in the heavens as a swan near the stars of his lyre.

