



Sun-Earth Day

Celebrate the Connection!

www.sunearthday.nasa.gov

Public Outreach: Make and Take Activities

What You'll Need

- Printouts of the Coloring Dragon handout (see next page)
- Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, etc.
- (Optional) decorating supplies such as glitter, beads, glue, etc.

Color the Eclipse Dragon



About this Activity

Color your own Eclipse Dragon, and learn how ancient cultures once believed a dragon was eating the Sun during an Eclipse.

Left: A completed Color the Eclipse dragon handout done in colored pencils.

Preparation

It helps to have chairs for the participants to sit in while coloring and a large amount of table surface if you are going to do additional decorating.

To Do and Notice

- 1) Have the participant read the facts on the handout. Or if the participant is very young, read the facts out loud.
- 2) Have the participants color and decorate their dragon. (Chinese dragons come in all sorts of colors and decorations). You may have the participants take their dragon when they are done, or collect them on a display board to show off their finished products for the duration of the event or class.

Activity Notes

This activity helps give a cultural context to the Eclipse, especially for any Eclipse being webcast from China. The language is suitable for a younger-aged participant, and the coloring is detailed enough for older participants.

Related Websites

NASA Eclipse Website: More Information, Images, and History of Eclipses

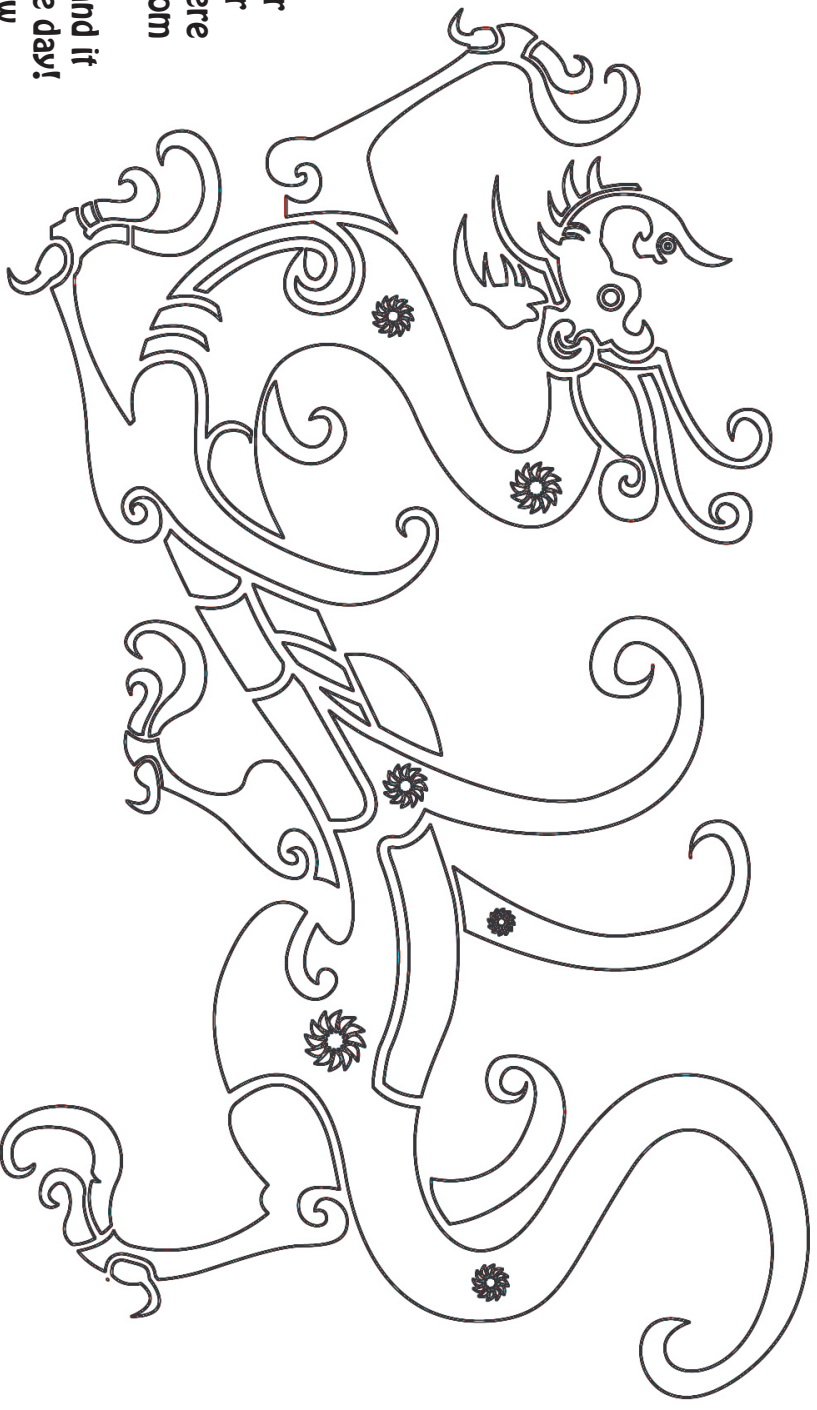
<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>

Color the Eclipse Dragon

What is a solar eclipse?

People always want to know about solar eclipses. A long, long time ago, people in China thought that a solar eclipse happened when a giant dragon swallowed the Sun. The people made loud noises like shooting off fireworks to scare the dragon away. They wanted their Sun to come back!

Now we know that a solar eclipse happens when our Moon gets between us here on Earth and the Sun. From Earth we see the Moon covering the whole Sun and it even gets dark during the day! An eclipse only lasts a few minutes - so before you know it, the Moon moves away from the Sun and it is sunny again.



There will be two solar eclipses in China very soon! Ask your teacher or your family to take a look at pictures and movies of the eclipse at www.sunearth.nasa.gov