



The Path of Totality

A Storytelling Activity

Date: _____

Time: _____

Initial: _____

Storytelling is an art form that has been passed down from generation to generation and has existed for as long as humanity has had language. They were meant to teach, explain and entertain and were often used to explain natural phenomena too difficult to explain from basic observation.

Instructions:

During this activity you will listen to professional storyteller, Jordan Hill, as he shares five incredible 'eclipse' stories with you that originated from Mongolia, Turkey, Africa and Egypt. Pay special attention to how Jordan is able to enhance the storytelling experience through his use of 'voice tone' and 'gesture'.

In each story, identify the plot, characters and narrative point of view. We have provided guiding questions below to help you get started. To find your answers simple refer to the multimedia resources available at: <http://sunearthday.gsfc.nasa.gov/polarsunrise> .

Story One: Arakho

1. What was Arakho's problem?
2. Identify the key plot points in the story.
3. Describe each character and the humanness of each.
4. What was the terrestrial phenomenon described in the story?

Story Two: The Battle of the Eclipse

1. What was Madia's problem?
2. Identify the key plot points in the story.
3. Describe the main characters. Emphasize the importance of each in the development of the plot.
4. What was the terrestrial phenomenon described in the story? What importance did it have to the plot?
5. How did Madia's feelings about war change during the story? How did his feelings about his home change?



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Story Three: Mawu and Lisa

1. What was Mawu's problem?
2. Identify the key plot points in the story.
3. Describe the main characters. Emphasize the importance of each in the development of the plot.
4. What was the terrestrial phenomenon described in the story? What importance did it have to the plot?
5. Do you think people today make up stories to explain what they observe about the world around us? (The reason for Day and Night? Why we have tides? Why the cricket sings? Why the grasshopper hops?) Explain your answer.

Story Four: Kuiyecoke and Puka Puka

1. What was the main problem in this story?
2. Identify the key plot points.
3. Describe the main characters. Emphasize the importance of each in the development of the plot.
4. What information found in this story concerning terrestrial objects is based on fact?

Story Five: Horus and Seth

1. What was the main problem in this story?
2. Identify the key plot points in the story.
3. Describe the main characters. Emphasize the importance of each in the development of the plot.
4. What moral lessons in life are emphasized in the story?
5. From the story, what did you learn about the terrain in the area of the River Nile?
6. What information found in this story concerning terrestrial objects is based on fact?