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Level 5 – 8th April 2024

Rockets and planes chase the solar eclipse

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-5.html>

Pilots chased a solar eclipse on Monday. This happened while millions of people in North America gazed into the sky to glimpse a rare celestial event - a total eclipse of the sun. The sun, moon and Earth aligned to block the view of the sun. NASA sent high-altitude WB-57 planes with special sensors and instruments to gather information from the solar event. Pilots flew 15,240 meters high to get a view of the corona – the sun's outer surface. NASA also fired rockets into Earth's upper atmosphere, known as the ionosphere, to try to find out about some of the sun's mysteries.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon blocks the sun. This celestial event momentarily turns day to night. Totality means the sun's corona is a million times dimmer than the sun. This makes it easier for scientists to study the sun. A solar astrophysicist explained that: "Total solar eclipses let us study and see the corona in ways that just would not be possible at any other time." Solar eclipses often have confusing effects in nature. They briefly wake up nocturnal animals, and make birds and insects fall silent. Motorists should also slow down as visibility can change.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/06/world/total-solar-eclipse-science-newsletter-wt-scn/index.html>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/06/april-total-solar-eclipse-2024-monday-time-path-glasses/73192667007/>
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/why-these-scientists-fly-all-over-the-world-to-study-the-suns-corona-during-total-solar-eclipses>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pilots chased | a. atmosphere |
| 2. glimpse a rare | b. altitude WB-57 planes |
| 3. The sun, moon and Earth | c. mysteries |
| 4. high- | d. celestial event |
| 5. gather | e. a solar eclipse |
| 6. get a view | f. aligned |
| 7. Earth's upper | g. of the corona |
| 8. find out about some of the sun's | h. information |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. celestial | a. silent |
| 2. momentarily turns | b. astrophysicist |
| 3. the sun's corona is a | c. change |
| 4. a solar | d. million times dimmer |
| 5. They briefly wake up nocturnal | e. should also slow down |
| 6. make birds and insects fall | f. event |
| 7. Motorists | g. animals |
| 8. visibility can | h. day to night |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-5.html>

(1) _____ solar eclipse on Monday. This happened while millions of people in North America (2) _____ sky to glimpse a rare celestial event - a total eclipse of the sun. The sun, moon and Earth (3) _____ the view of the sun. NASA sent high-altitude WB-57 planes (4) _____ and instruments to gather information from the solar event. Pilots flew 15,240 meters high to (5) _____ of the corona - the sun's outer surface. NASA also fired rockets into Earth's upper atmosphere, known as the ionosphere, to try to find out about some of (6) _____.

A total solar eclipse happens when (7) _____ the sun. This celestial event (8) _____ to night. Totality means the sun's corona is a million (9) _____ the sun. This makes it easier for scientists to study the sun. A solar astrophysicist explained that: "Total solar eclipses let us study and see the corona in ways that just would not (10) _____ any other time." Solar eclipses often have (11) _____ nature. They briefly wake up nocturnal animals, and make birds and insects fall silent. Motorists should also slow down as (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-5.html>

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ECLIPSES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about eclipses in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

