

Assessing with Primary Resources

Grade Level: High School (Grades 9-10)

Standards or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.2
Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.7
Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

Library of Congress Resources:



Yorkville Enquirer. Yorkville, SC, Saturday, May 26, 1900.

Image & Article by Andrew Downs.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026925/1900-05-26/ed-1/seq-1/>

On the morning of May 28, when the spring sun is riding high in the heavens, a strange thing will happen. The moon, invisible, of course, will get between the earth and the sun. Although the moon is an insignificant little ball when compared to the sun, it is so much nearer us that the great orb of day will be entirely blotted out. Reaching down through space will dip, like a great pencil, the black shadow of the moon. This shadow will draw across the face of the earth a broad black line. It will be a rushing, sweeping stroke, that will swing eastward at the rate of nearly 2,000 miles an hour. This will be the path of total eclipse. The line will be about 50 miles wide. It will cross Mexico and strike the United States at New Orleans. From there it will sweep

Topic Background:

Because of the rarity of a total solar eclipse, and because of the lack of today's widespread availability of images and videos showing an eclipse, there was much uncertainty in regards to exactly what would happen during such an uncommon occurrence. On May 28, 1900, a total solar eclipse occurred and was visible in the United States, just like what we will see on August 21, 2017. This source is one of many that happened to inform people about what would occur during the total solar eclipse of 1900.

Source(s) Used:

The sources used for this assessment include a drawing and an article, both from the same author and from the same publication. These sources are from a newspaper article entitled *When the Sun Hides: What Will Happen During the Coming Total Eclipse Next Monday*, which appeared in the *Yorkville Enquirer* newspaper on Saturday, May 26, 1900. The author attempted to both illustrate and explain what the readers could expect to experience during the upcoming total solar eclipse.

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

Question 1 – D

Question 2 – C

YORKVILLE ENQUIRER.

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY.

L. M. GRIST & SONS, Publishers. | A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People. | TERMS—\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.
ESTABLISHED 1855. | YORKVILLE, S. C., SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1900. | NO. 42.

WHEN THE SUN HIDES.

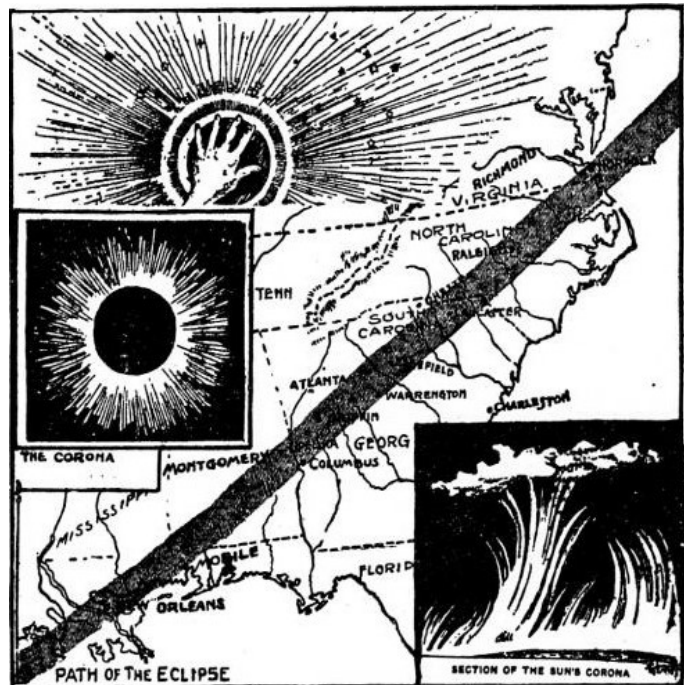
What Will Happen During the Coming Total Eclipse Next Monday.

BY ANDREW DOWNS.

- 1 On the morning of May 28, when the spring sun is riding high in the heavens, a strange thing will happen. The moon, invisible of course, will get between the earth and the sun. Although the moon is an insignificant little ball when compared to the sun, it is so much nearer us that the great orb of day will be entirely blotted out.

Reaching down through space will dip, like a great pencil, the black shadow of the moon. This shadow will draw across the face of the earth a broad black line. It will be a rushing, sweeping stroke, that will swing eastward at the rate of nearly 2,000 miles an hour. This will be the path of total eclipse ...

- 2
- 3 If you are anywhere near the line of total eclipse, you will see the greater part of the day star obscured, as if a great hand were trying to shut out the light
- 4 As a spectacle a total solar eclipse ranks among the most marvelous ever presented to the eyes of man. The race of the moon shadow across the face of the landscape as the moment of totality approaches has always been described by observers as one of the most staggering, awe inspiring scenes that is possible to imagine. Then come the obscurity, the disappearance of the sun, the strange chill of unnatural darkness, the outburst of the wonderful coronal streamers around the spot where a black hole seems suddenly to have taken the place of the sun, after one or two minutes of awful pause and silence, the gleam of the reappearing orb and the swift flight of the shadow eastward



Questions:

1. According to both the image and the article, which of the following will occur during the upcoming solar eclipse? (CCSS.ELA.RI.9-10.7)
 - a. The temperature will drop.
 - b. The shadow of the moon will pass over the earth at a high speed.
 - c. There will be a period of darkness lasting a couple of minutes.
 - d. The moon will move between the earth and the sun.

2. Which underlined descriptive phrase best reflects the central idea of the article? (CCSS.ELA.RI.9-10.2)
 - a. "... as if a great hand were trying to shut out the light ..." (see paragraph #3
 - b. " one of the most staggering, awe inspiring scenes that is possible to imagine ..." (see paragraph #4)
 - c. "... the great orb of day will be entirely blotted out ..." (see paragraph #1)
 - d. "... the strange chill of unnatural darkness ..." (see paragraph #4)