Eclipse Chalk Art

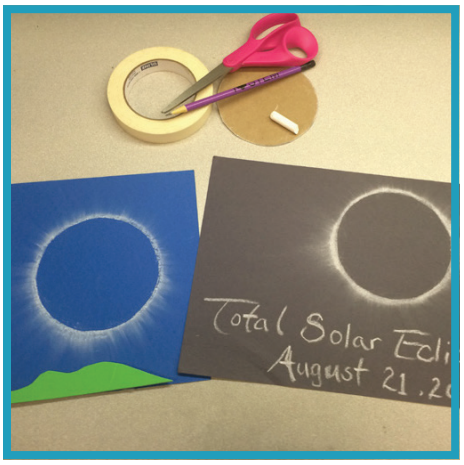
by Jessica Henricks (*Eclipse Chalk Art is originally created by J. Henricks, L. Mayo, E. DeVore)*

A total solar eclipse is about as bright as the full Moon — and just as safe to look at.
But the Sun at any other time is dangerously bright; view it only through special-purpose safe solar filters.

What is this about?

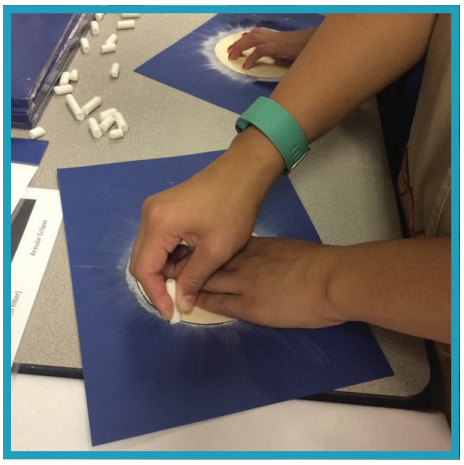
Observing a total solar eclipse can be an exciting, once in a life time experience! Long before there were cameras or telescopes, eclipse watchers recorded what they saw in the sky in words, drawings, and paintings. You can have fun creating your own picture of a solar eclipse with chalk and paper!

Materials (you provide)



- Paper, dark blue or black. Smooth card stock paper works best (not construction paper).
- White, non-toxic chalk
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Circle templates cut from card stock, file folders, or cereal boxes
- OPTIONAL Brightly colored construction paper for foam sheets for cut-out horizon detail.

To Do



1. Make circle templates on stiff paper. Trace around masking tape roll with a pencil, and cut out the template. Make several for group activities.
2. Place the template on a piece of dark paper. Secure with a loop of masking tape or simply hold down with one hand.
3. Draw a thick circle of chalk around the template. Go around 2 or 3 times. It does not need to be neat.
4. Holding the template in place, smudge the chalk away from the center of the circle using a finger to create the corona of the Sun.
5. When you are done smudging, remove the circle template.
6. Add words, pictures, or fun designs.
7. You've made eclipse art!

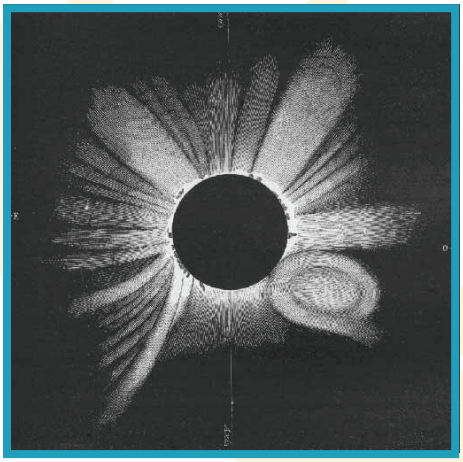
Images above—
Credit: J. Henricks, Girl Scouts of Northern California

SEAL Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries | NASA@ My Library | STAR net Science-Technology Activities & Resources For Libraries

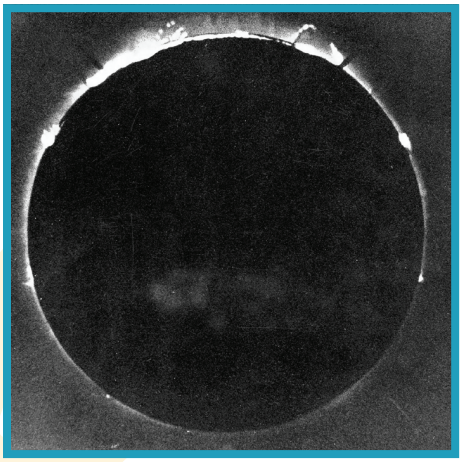
(*Continued on page 2*)

Space Science Tie-in

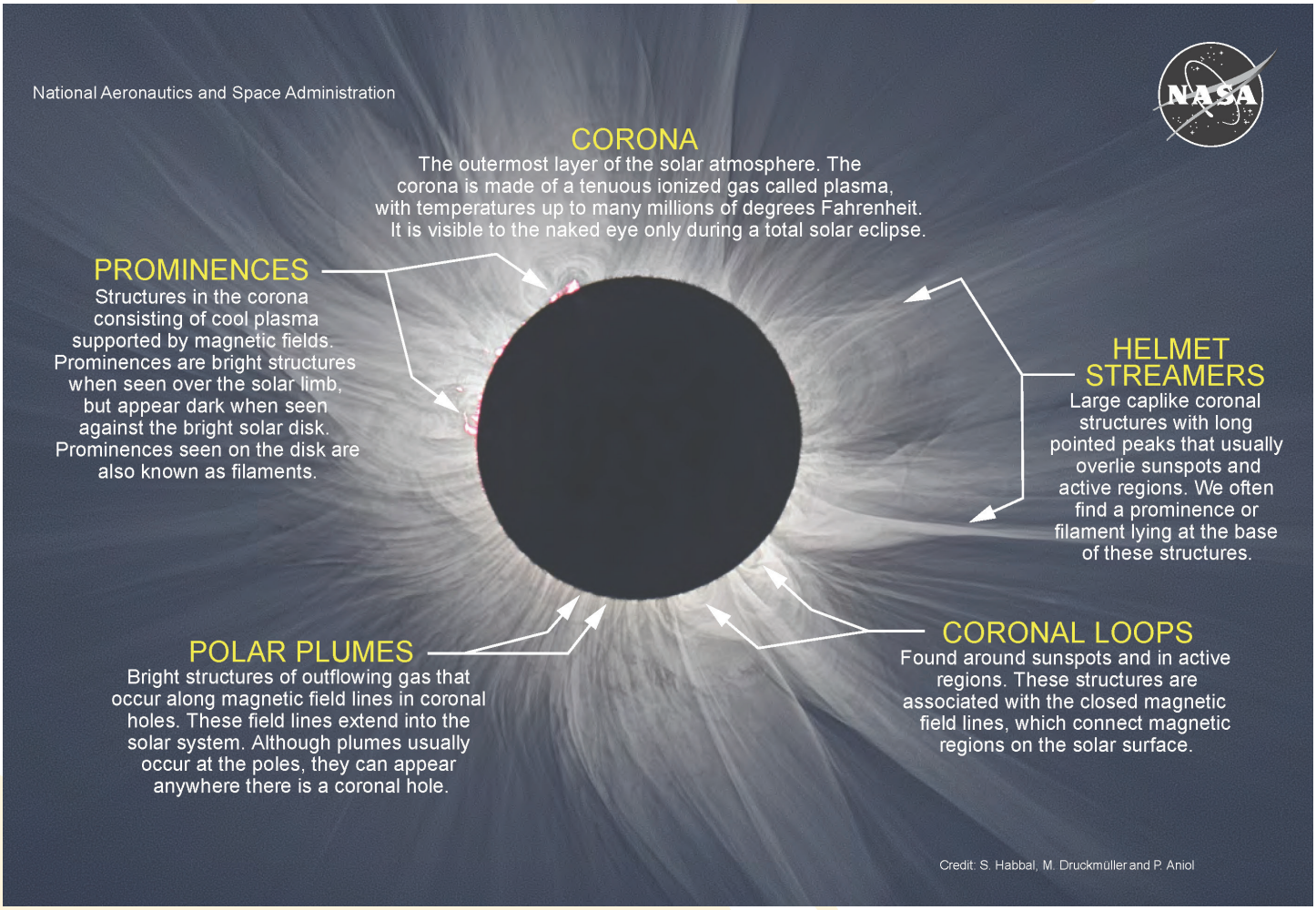
Until the advent of sophisticated and highly specialized ground and space-based solar telescopes, the only opportunity anyone had for observing the Sun's corona was during a total solar eclipse. Eclipse photography was not in use until about 1860. Before that, astronomers would sketch what they saw at the eyepiece of their telescopes.



Sketch of 1860 total solar eclipse by G. Temple showing a coronal mass ejection. *Credit: G. Temple*



First photograph of a solar eclipse by Charles A. Young, July 18, 1860. *Credit: C. Young*



Credit: NASA

For More Eclipse Information and Images —
American Astronomical Society: https://eclipse.aas.org
NASA: https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov