DAY 5 ELearning 3rd Grade Science *NOTE: This assignment is 2 pages long.

Eclipses

Earth **orbits** around the sun. The moon **orbits** around the Earth. The way that Earth, the moon, and the sun move can make other interesting things to look at in the sky. When Earth, the moon, and the sun all move together in a direct line, something called an eclipse can take place.

We can see two kinds of eclipses from Earth. One kind happens when the moon gets in between the sun and Earth. When that happens, we can't see the sun for a while. At least, we can't see part of it. We call this a solar eclipse or an eclipse of the sun.



During an eclipse of the sun, the moon moves between Earth and sun and blocks out the sun.

The other kind of eclipse, called a lunar eclipse, also involves the sun, the moon, and Earth. It takes place when the moon **passes** behind Earth and into its shadow. In the image on the next page, you can see that a shadow covers part of the moon. It is Earth's shadow that you see. Earth has blocked out the sun and left part of the moon in darkness.

Eclipses do not happen often because the sun, Earth, and the moon all have to line up just right. Solar eclipses can only be seen from a narrow strip of Earth at a time. While they happen once or twice a year, it is very, very **rare** to see one. Eclipses of the moon happen more often, several times each year. They can be seen from half of Earth at a time, so are more often visible.

Whether or not you can see an eclipse depends on where you are on Earth. You must never look directly at a solar eclipse. The sun is very bright and could burn your eyes. But, it is safe to look at an eclipse of the moon. If an eclipse is **predicted**, it is usually big news, so you will likely hear about it.



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The moon during a lunar eclipse

Comprehension Questions

Use information from the text to help you write your answer in your own words.

1. One kind of eclipse is a solar eclipse. How are the sun, Earth, and moon positioned when a solar eclipse happens?

2. What causes a lunar eclipse to happen?

3. Describe what you might see during a lunar eclipse. Support your description using details from the text and images.

4. What is the main idea of this text?