

Solar eclipse newspaper article



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1 Analyse a newspaper article

Project the following BBC newspaper article onto the white board:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24793350>

Ask pupils to analyse in some detail the features of the news report. They should understand the terms headline, strap, paragraphs, the five Ws (who, what, where, when, why), and gain an appreciation of how reports are organized to catch the reader's attention and give as much information as possible in a limited number of words.

2 Write a report

Pupils use this information to write their own report about the March 2015 eclipse, given the newspaper page template. They could do this in a limited amount of words but it may be necessary to work with them, either at the planning or editing stage, for them to understand how to delete superfluous words and information.

3 Design the report

Pupils work in groups of four to compile their own newspaper report, based on a front page design on a computer. It may be useful to give a limited choice of photographs (either a set topic or single category) as they may be overwhelmed and valuable time could be lost. The font style and size can be manipulated by the pupils using word processing skills.

Headline here

Journalist's name here

Strapline here

Lead or opening sentence goes first.
What info is given?
How is it organized?
How does it draw the reader into the story?

Write in short paragraphs and use columns.

Give information about the five Ws in the opening paragraph.

Photograph here

Caption for photograph



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This worksheet was produced by the RAS to mark the solar eclipse of 20 March 2015 – visible as a partial eclipse from the UK. It is available free – along with other eclipse resources – online from

www.ras.org.uk