

## Myths and legends

Ancient cultures didn't know that the sun and the moon were part of the solar system so they came up with some brilliant ideas as to why the sun would go out and re-appear.

The Babylonians and the ancient Chinese could predict solar eclipses as early as 2500 BCE.

In China failing to predict one meant putting the emperor in danger, as well as those who worked for the Emperor but failed to predict it!



**CHINA**  
A dragon eats the sun (the Chinese word for eclipse 'chih' means 'to eat').

**VIETNAM**  
A giant frog eats the sun

**SCANDINAVIA**  
Wolves eat the sun

**INDIA**  
The deity *Rahu's* chopped off head flies into the sky swallowing the Sun

**KOREA**  
Mythical dogs try to steal the Sun



**US**  
A bear starts a fight with the Sun and takes a bite out of it

**NEW MEXICO**  
An angry Sun leaves the sky to go to the underworld

**INDIA**  
Cooking food during an eclipse will make it impure

**GREECE**  
Angry gods start disasters and destruction

Luckily in many cultures, people banged pots and pans and make loud noises during a solar eclipse scaring the demon away (phew!)

It wasn't all doom and gloom though. In Togo the only way to stop the sun and moon from hurting each other was for people on Earth to resolve all conflicts with each other and in Italy it is believed that flowers planted during a solar eclipse are brighter and more colourful than flowers planted any other time of the year.

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