Instruction: Listen to the lecture comparing solar and lunar eclipses and fill in each blank with **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER**.

Good evening and welcome back to this month's **(1)** _____ lecture. I'm Donald Mackey, and tonight we are going to explore two of nature's most spectacular cosmic events: solar eclipses and lunar eclipses.

A thousand years ago, a total solar eclipse was viewed as a **(2)** _____ religious experience. Ancient civilizations often interpreted the sudden darkness as a danger signal **(3)** _____. In fact, the ancient Chinese were so **(4)** _____ by this phenomenon that they created a specific god to prevent eclipses from happening. Today, however, a solar eclipse is far more likely to be celebrated as a major **(5)** _____. Scientifically speaking, it occurs during a precise **(6)** _____ when the shadow of the moon goes **(7)** _____ across the Earth.

For us scientists, total solar eclipses possess a **(8)** _____ beauty because they offer a **(9)** _____ for research. Only during a total solar eclipse can astronomers observe the **(10)** _____ and other dim features normally hidden in the sun's blinding **(11)** _____. However, total solar eclipses are extremely rare for any single location, taking **(12)** _____ on average to recur in the same spot, and looking at them requires protective eyewear.

(13) _____, a lunar eclipse occurs during a full moon when the Earth passes directly between the Sun and the Moon. Instead of going completely black, the Moon turns a deep reddish color because the Earth's **(14)** _____ filters and bends sunlight onto the lunar surface. Even though ancient societies were also **(15)** _____ about this 'Blood Moon', a lunar eclipse is completely safe to view with the **(16)** _____. Because the Earth's shadow is so large, a lunar eclipse can be seen from almost half of the globe, making this astronomical **(17)** _____ far more **(18)** _____ to stargazers worldwide.

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