

WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

WORK STOPS IN IRELAND TO WATCH ECLIPSE

Thursday, August 12th 1999

Thousands of Irish eclipse-watchers joined sky-gazers around the world yesterday in viewing the last great solar spectacular of the millennium.

The world didn't come to an end but work stopped temporarily, as people flooded out of homes and offices to witness the moon eclipse the sun. Temperatures dropped by up to 2° Celsius in Ireland and the sky noticeably darkened.

Shortly after 11 am, as the eclipse reached its limit, cars stopped, telephones were left unanswered and people looked to the heavens. In five minutes, electricity demand fell by 3.5 per cent.

Despite all the warnings, people did look directly at the sun, using devices ranging from eclipse sunglasses to the back of their hands.

Dublin's Eye and Ear Hospital received up to 40 phone calls last night from people fearful that damage may have been caused to their eyes. At least five people were examined, two of whom are to return today for further tests.

However, no major injuries have been identified, said Professor Louis Collum, adding that anyone with any visual symptoms should contact their GP or eye doctor.

A total eclipse occurs somewhere in the world about every 18 months. The next total eclipse to pass over Ireland will be in 2090, and over Dublin in 2600.

I/ Read the text and answer the questions.

1. This document is:
A press article a poem a school report a shopping list
2. When was it published?
In the 1950s fifty years ago at the end of the 20th century
3. Where did the scene take place?
In Ireland In Japan In France

4. When did the scene take place?
on August 11th 1999 on August 12th 1999 on August 13th 1999
5. What happened ?
an earthquake a total eclipse of the sun a big fire
6. Nobody watched it.
Right Wrong
7. It happened in the evening
Right Wrong
8. What was dangerous on that occasion?
wearing glasses looking directly at the sun using a mobile phone
9. What problems did the population have as a consequence:
Eye problems leg problems heart problems
10. A lot of people had these problems
Right Wrong
11. A Total eclipse occurs on the planet
every five months every eighteen months every year
12. When will the next eclipse occur in Dublin?

II/ Vocabulary

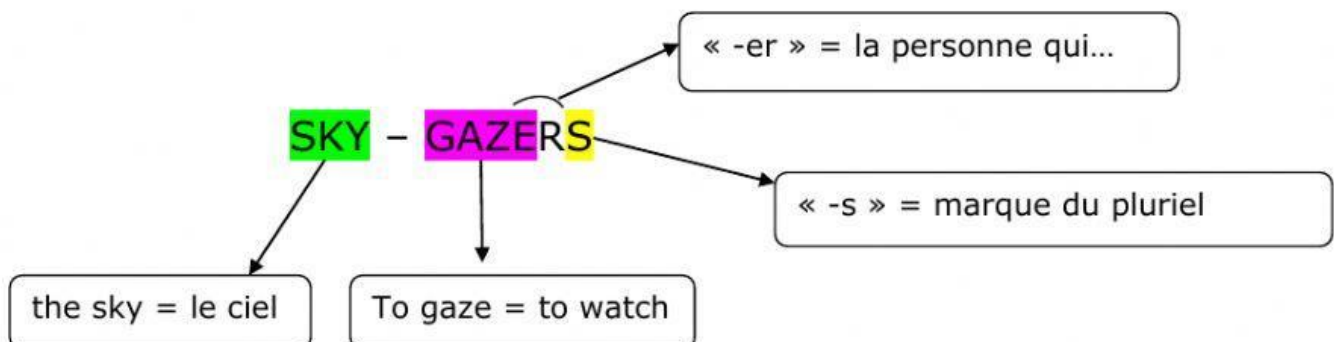
Retrouve les mots ou expressions suivant(e)s dans le texte et déduis leur sens :

1/ "Temperatures **dropped** by 2° Celsius"

Dropped = decreased ↘ increased ↗

2/ " Thousands of Irish **eclipse-watchers** joined **sky-gazers**"

a/ **Sky-gazers** : dans ce mot composé on retrouve :



Quelle traduction proposes-tu pour « sky-gazers » :

b/ Eclipse-watchers ► explique de quoi ce mot est composé et propose une traduction :

3/ « telephones were left unanswered »

« unanswered » ► explique de quoi ce mot est composé et propose une traduction :

III / Conclusion :

En quelques lignes explique en français ce que raconte ce texte :

For your information :

In August 1999 your parents and grandparents probably saw that eclipse too !!!

Ask them what they remember ! That was an incredible experience !!!!