Bakunawa and the Fire Dogs – Two Myths About Eclipses

Subjects: English · Ethics · Geography | recommended from age 11 (A2/B1) | Video: 8:41 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/Khc6zQvDXpk

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. What actually happens during a lunar eclipse? Explain it in one sentence, the way you know it today.

B · While watching

1. According to the Philippine myth, why were there once seven moons – and what happened to them?

2. How did people drive Bakunawa away from the last moon?

3. Who sends out the fire dogs in Korea – and why?

4. Why do the Bulgae fail with the sun and the moon?

5. Which custom still lives on in the Philippines today?

Useful words

eclipse	Finsternis	pot / pan	Topf / Pfanne
to swallow	verschlucken	kingdom	Königreich
moon	Mond	to breed	züchten
noise	Lärm	custom	Brauch

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	The dragon backs away from the noise.
	The second Bulgae fails because the moon is ice cold.
	Bathala creates seven moons so the night stays bright.
	The first Bulgae drops the burning hot sun.
	Bakunawa rises from the sea and swallows six moons.
	The king keeps sending new dogs to this day.
	People bang pots and drums to save the last moon.
	A king in the realm of darkness breeds fire dogs.

D · Think and discuss

1. In the Philippines people can act, in Korea they can only watch. Which version do you prefer? Explain.

2. Why did people in the past need stories like these to explain eclipses?

E · Bakunawa and the Bulgae compared

Complete the table with information from the video.

	Bakunawa (Philippines)	Bulgae (Korea)
What kind of creature is it?		
Which eclipse does the myth explain?		
What role do people play?		
What is left of it today?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, invent your own short myth that explains something in nature – for example thunder, a rainbow or the tides (8–10 sentences).