

Prologue

A *total solar eclipse** is one of the most awesome sights in nature. On average, a particular spot on Earth experiences this event only about once every 375 years.

A total solar eclipse occurs *somewhere* on Earth about every two years. But all too often, much of the eclipse path is over the oceans or in countries where travel is difficult or impossible because of war, weather or poor roads.

However, on **August 21, 2017**, a total solar eclipse will sweep across the United States, and there are many places to see it that are easy to reach.

If you are thinking, "What's so great about a total solar eclipse?" or "Why do I need to go where the eclipse is *total*?" then I would ask you to name some place in the world that you think is a spectacular sight. You might say, "The Grand Canyon."

Now imagine that the Grand Canyon is only visible every two years, and only for 2 or 3 minutes each time. Would you try to be there to see it? And just think, if you didn't go, you would have to wait two years for another chance! And even if you went, you might miss it because of dense fog or rain.

With that in mind, take a road trip through space and time for an amazing adventure with a spectacular ending.

Seeing a total solar eclipse is an unforgettable experience, and it's all about being in the right place at the right time!

*See the Glossary on page 34 for more information about this and other terms marked with an asterisk.