

Draw Your Own Solar Eclipse

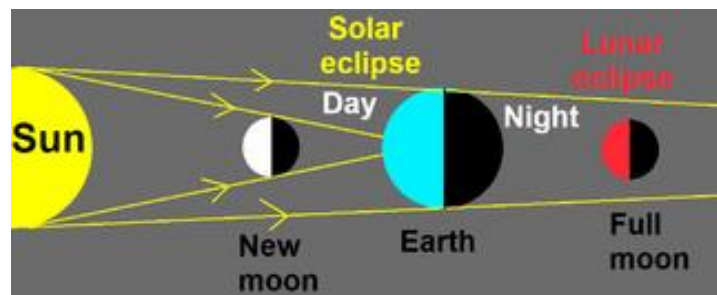


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A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes in front of the Sun causing a shadow to fall on certain portions of the Earth. The eclipse is not seen from every place on Earth, but only from the locations where the shadow falls. From these locations, it appears as if the Sun has gone dark.

A total eclipse is when the Sun is completely covered by the Moon. The portion of the Earth that is in the shadow experiences a total eclipse.

A partial eclipse is when only a portion of the Sun is blocked by the Moon. It occurs when the observer is just outside the full shadow on the Earth.



What you will need:

- Plain paper or card (scrap paper is best for the environment)
- Something cylindrical to draw around (a cup or can of beans works well)
- Scissors
- Black paper
- White chalk
- Paper towels or sponge (or your finger!)

What to do:

- Draw a circle on a piece of scrap paper and carefully cut it out.
- Place the circle on your black paper and hold it down with one hand.
- Draw a heavy chalk line around the circle.
- Whilst holding the circle in place, use a paper towel or a sponge to smudge the chalk out, away from the cut out circle. You can spread the chalk out as little or as much as you want to – but only pull it away from the circle if you want it to look like a real eclipse!
- Take the scrap paper circle away and look at your very own eclipse.