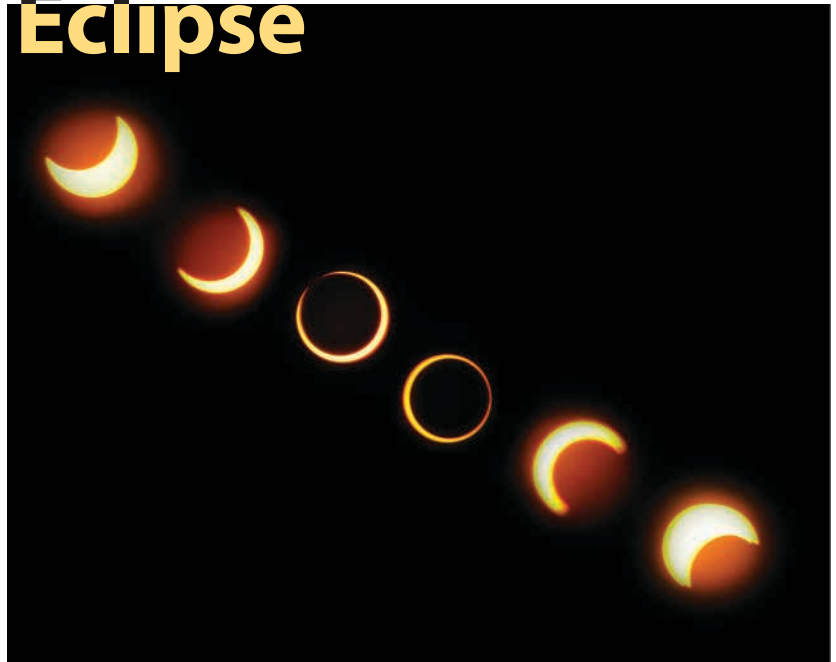


Solar Eclipse

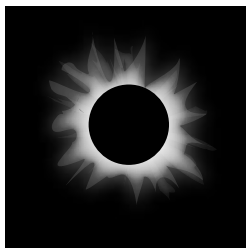
The Sun and the Moon Play Hide and Seek Sometimes!

On May 20, 2012, the moon passed between the Earth and the sun, covering most what people living near the Pacific Ocean see of the sun. Only a small part of the world gets to see any particular solar eclipse because the moon is much smaller than the Earth.

This kind of event is called a partial or annular solar eclipse. At the most, this kind of eclipse makes the sun look like a "ring of fire." If it had been a full solar eclipse, only the glow, or the corona, of the sun would have been visible around the circle of the moon.

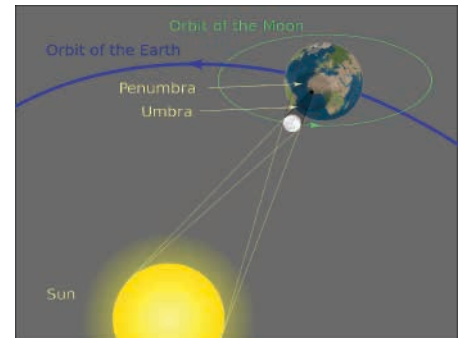


Annular Solar Eclipse



Full Solar Eclipse

Full solar eclipses happen somewhere on Earth during the new moon (the phase of the moon when it lines up with the sun) every 18 months. On average, a solar eclipse is visible in the same place only every 360 to 410 years!



To see the eclipse safely, people had to wear solar safety glasses or use #14 welder's glass. You should never look at the sun without protecting your eyes!



Solar Eclipse Trivia

1. What kind of solar eclipse happened on May 20, 2012?

partial or annular

2. During a full solar eclipse, what is the name of the sun's glow that can be seen?

corona

3. What should you wear to protect your eyes if you want to look at a solar eclipse?

solar safety glasses