



SCIENCE MATTERS

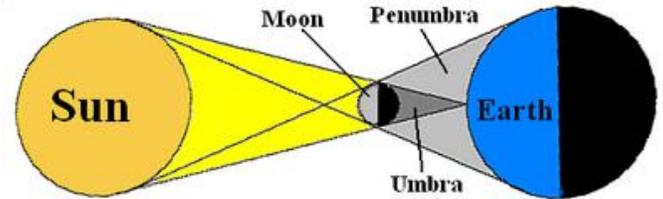
Science Partners Newsletter

Special Solar Eclipse Edition

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Solar Eclipse – August 21, 2017

It seems that everyone is excited about the upcoming solar eclipse on Monday, August 21. Many people have been asking us about it. While it is a rare occurrence, we have tried to be very clear with our warning to **NEVER, EVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN!!**



We get a lot of afternoon clouds and rainshowers here in Central Florida. If it's cloudy or rainy, you probably won't be able to see the eclipse, even though the skies may darken similar to twilight. Hopefully, on Monday the skies will be clear enough to view this wonderful phenomenon – in a safe manner, of course. Our concern is that people are not fully aware of the great danger of looking at the sun, if only for a brief moment – especially since we are not in the “path of totality.” The only time we have ever looked directly at the sun was through a 10” reflecting telescope with a \$900 solar filter!

What is incredible about a solar eclipse is that the moon is exactly the same size as the sun when it passes in front of it, allowing the outer rim of the sun to be studied, if only briefly, by astronomers. What would be the chance of that happening by a “big bang?” Once again, “the heavens declare...”

Warning: Fake Eclipse Glasses are Flooding the Market!



Information from The American Astronomical Society:

Did you know that “fake eclipse glasses” are flooding the market now, [according to the American Astronomical Society](#)? This counterfeit equipment falsely claims to meet the international standard for safe solar viewing. So how do you know that your eclipse glasses or handheld viewers are safe? You can't really check them yourself; doing so requires pretty high-tech lab equipment. Again, we would recommend that you **never look directly at the sun**, even with “solar eclipse glasses.” The safest way to view the eclipse is to watch it live on TV. We are sure it will be broadcast on many channels. Or, see it live from your back yard through a pinhole viewer. (See information below.)

Pinhole Cameras / Solar Viewers

There are eclipse filters that you can purchase for use with reflecting telescopes during the partial phases of the eclipse, but they are not cheap – and you need a reflecting telescope. Alternately, you may check out The American Astronomical Society's website for instructions on how to construct a [pinhole camera / solar viewer](#). If you have binoculars you might also look at these links <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvMsYGznlIY> and <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/binoculars-telescope-projector.html>. Be sure to read and follow the instructions carefully so as not to damage your eyes and/or binoculars.

Genesis 1:16

*And God made the two great lights,
the greater light to govern the day,
and the lesser light to govern the night;
He made the stars also.*

