

Lunar Eclipse Demo

In this activity, children will create a Lunar Eclipse.

What You Need:

- Earth Globe
- Masking Tape
- Flashlight
- Tennis ball to represent the Moon
- 1 poster
- Print-outs of the below text

What to Do:

- Create a poster using the below text. Hide the answer under a piece of cardstock.
- Create a circle – the Moon’s orbit around Earth – on the floor with masking tape. The circle should be around 4’ to 8’ in diameter.
- In the center of the circle, place the Earth globe on a table so that the globe is about chest-high for the children in your program.
- Outside of the circle, place the flashlight – the Sun - so that it shines on the Earth globe.
- Mark 4 places along the orbit with one being on the farthest side of the orbit (so that the light is blocked by the Earth globe and doesn’t shine on the Moon.)
- Have children walk the orbit holding the “Moon” in front of them. As they walk the orbit, have them identify where the Earth’s shadow eclipses the Moon.

What causes a lunar eclipse?

The Earth’s shadow covers the Moon.

The light represents the Sun’s light.

Follow the orbit on the floor to move a “Moon” ball around the Earth globe.

At which point in the orbit does the Moon become eclipsed—
A, B, C, or D?

Answer: B