

2024 Total Solar Eclipse

April 8, 2024

What is a Solar Eclipse?

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the Earth and the sun, temporarily blocking the sun's light, and creates darkness on parts of the Earth. Eclipses are rare experiences, but happen often enough that we can participate in them without having to wait for years between showings.

Solar eclipses occur approximately two to five times per year, but their visibility varies across different parts of the world. On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America. We will be able to experience this event right here in Norfolk, Virginia! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to witness this beautiful, celestial event that will surely spark curiosity in both children and adults alike. It is important to protect your eyes during a solar eclipse because the sun is so bright and can hurt your eyesight.

Reference: Brightwheel Blog; March 11, 2024

Child's Name: _____

During the solar eclipse, take your child outside or together look out your window at home to observe what occurs outside during this event. Both you and your child should look towards an object at eye level, such as a tree or a car. **Do not** look directly at the sun during the eclipse as doing so may damage you and your child's eyes.

Please have your child explain to you what they saw outside during the solar eclipse. You can write down what your child said on the lines below. Have your child color the picture. Ask your child to point to the Earth, Moon, and Sun from the picture.

