

Eclipse Explorers



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Science Centre

When the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, an eclipse can happen if they are lined up closely enough for the Moon's shadow to fall on Earth. Depending on where you are, you may see a partial or total eclipse.

When and where?

Starting from 18:10 on 12 August 2026, the eclipse will begin to appear in the North East, reaching its peak just after 19:00. At this point, we will see 90% of the Sun covered by the Moon.

We will not have a total eclipse in the UK, where the Moon completely covers the Sun, until 2090!

It doesn't stop there...

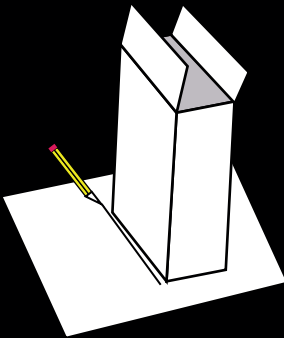
Solar and lunar eclipses often occur around two weeks apart, so keep a look out for a partial lunar eclipse on 28 August 2026.



Pinhole Projector

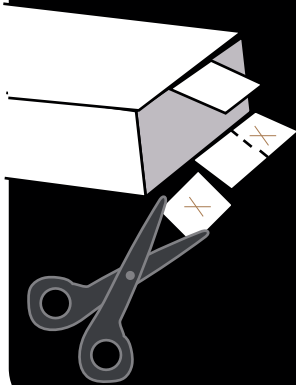
You will need:

Cereal box, scissors, glue, tape, pencil, tinfoil and white paper.

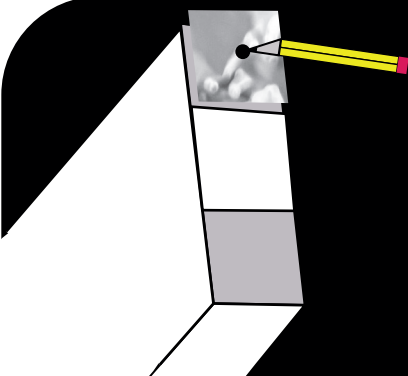


1. Draw around the base of the cereal box on a piece of white paper and cut out the shape.

Place it at the bottom of the inside of the box.



2. Cut the flaps away, leaving a central bridge across the opening. Secure the centre flaps with tape.



3. Cover the top hole with tin foil, securing it with tape.

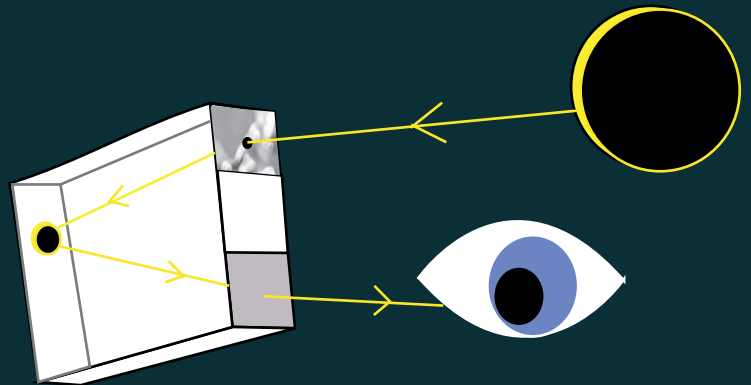
4. Using a pencil, make a small hole in the tinfoil.

What to do next?

The Sun is too bright to look at directly, so instead, we can use this pinhole projector to see the partial solar eclipse safely.

Holding the pinhole projector, stand with your back to the Sun and point the small hole towards the eclipse.

Look into the large opening and you should see a projected image of the eclipse on the bottom of the box.



Remember to never look directly at the Sun!

Share your eclipse photos with us on social media @ScienceAtLife. For more activities you can do at home, go to life.org.uk/life-goes-online