

Vocabulary



eclipse a darkening of part of a planet or a moon when another object blocks the Sun and casts its shadow on that planet or moon

The Sun provides all of the light for both the Moon and Earth. When the Moon blocks sunlight from reaching Earth, or when Earth blocks sunlight from reaching the Moon, an eclipse occurs.

lunar eclipse a darkening of the Moon when Earth's shadow falls on the Moon

When Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, it blocks the light that usually lights up the Moon. The Moon passes through Earth's shadow, and that is a lunar eclipse. A lunar eclipse can happen only during a full moon.

solar eclipse a darkening of part of Earth, when the Moon's shadow falls on Earth

When the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, it blocks the view of the Sun from people on Earth. The Moon's shadow passes across the surface of Earth. It is dark where the Moon's shadow passes. A solar eclipse can happen only during a new moon.