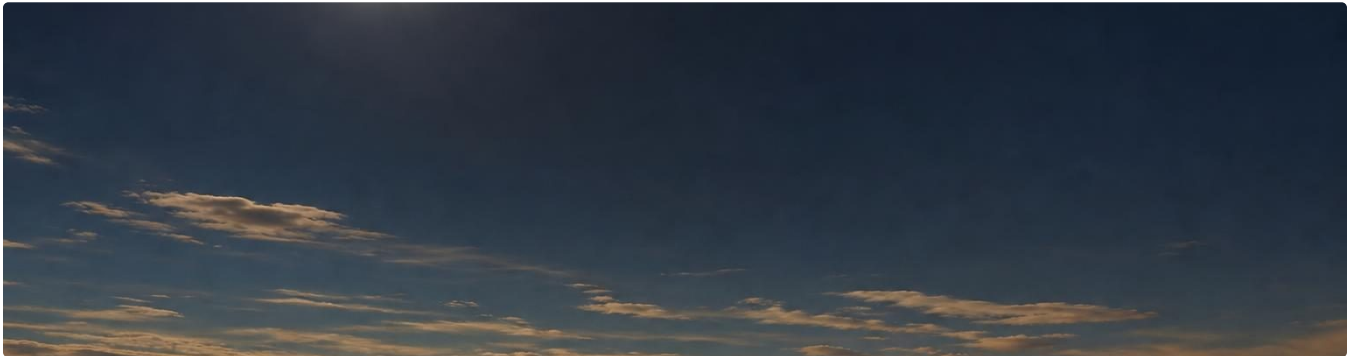


NASA Watches an Eclipse From Earth, Air, and Space

The Aug. 12 eclipse gave scientists a rare chance to study the Sun and Earth from many places at once.



NASA shared new pictures and science notes from the Aug. 12 solar eclipse, according to NASA. A solar eclipse happens when the Moon moves between Earth and the Sun. In Greenland, Iceland, and Spain, the Moon covered the Sun completely for a short time.

That made day look dimmer in the narrow eclipse path. It also showed the Sun's corona, its thin outer air. Usually the Sun is too bright for people to see the corona from the ground.

NASA did not watch from just one place. A photographer in Spain took pictures as the Moon slid across the Sun. In northern Maine, a NASA photographer saw only a partial eclipse. That means the Moon covered part of the Sun. From there, the International Space Station crossed in front of the partly covered Sun. The station is a science lab that circles Earth.

An astronaut on the station also took pictures from space. NASA pilots flew a research jet high above the ground. The jet flew through the Moon's shadow. That gave its cameras more time to study the corona. The cameras also watched prominences, which are giant loops of hot gas rising from the Sun.

Student teams launched science balloons in Iceland and Spain. The balloons carried instruments, or tools that measure and record information. In Iceland, clouds hid the eclipse from the ground. But the balloons still studied the lower atmosphere, the layer of air near Earth.

This matters because an eclipse is both beautiful and useful. For a few minutes, the Moon acts like a shield. Scientists can study parts of the Sun that are usually hidden by bright glare. They can also test their predictions. Before the eclipse, researchers used computers and telescope data to guess how the corona would look. Now they can compare that guess with real pictures.

Most days, science takes patience and planning. On eclipse day, the event moved fast. Cameras, balloons, a jet, and a space station all had to be ready. Together, they made one short sky show into many clues about the Sun and Earth.

THINK IT THROUGH

1. If NASA could use only two ways to watch the next eclipse, which two should it choose and why?

A strong answer: A strong answer would weigh trade-offs such as clouds, height, time in the shadow, and what each view can measure.

2. Is an eclipse more important as a public sky event or as a science experiment? Defend your choice.

A strong answer: A strong answer would consider both wonder for ordinary viewers and the rare data scientists can collect.

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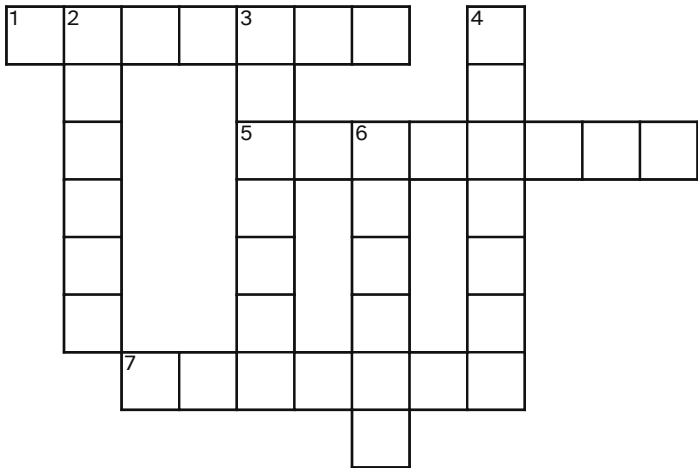
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BALLOON CORONA ECLIPSE PARTIAL RESEARCH
SHADOW STATION

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ACROSS

- 1 Moon passing in front of the Sun and blocking its light
- 5 Careful study to learn new facts or answer questions
- 7 Gas-filled bag that can carry tools high into the air

DOWN

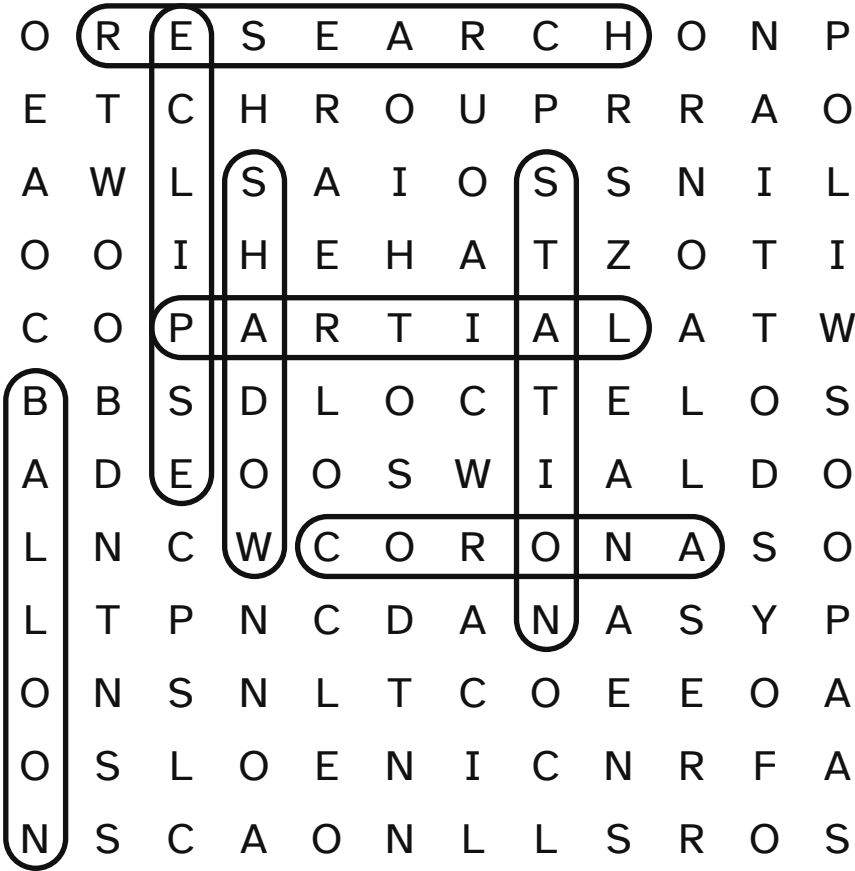
- 2 Sun's thin outer layer seen when its bright center is blocked
- 3 With only some of the Sun covered
- 4 Orbiting home and laboratory for astronauts
- 6 Dark area made when something blocks light

NASA Watches an Eclipse From Earth, Air, and Space

— answer key

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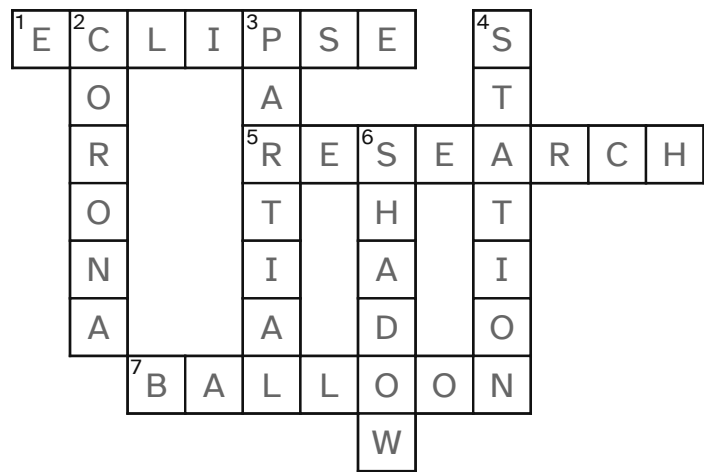
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Where this came from

This article was written for 3andB from the reporting below. It is not a reprint — the wording is ours and the facts are theirs.

NASA

“NASA Shares Views of August Solar Eclipse from Ground, Air, Space”

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<https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/heliophysics/nasa-shares-views-of-august-solar-eclipse-from-ground-air-space/>

WHAT IS IN THIS PACKET

The article with a note on each question, a word search, a crossword, and the answer key to both.

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