**Demonstrating an eclipse of the moon**

Use a flash light or a lighted candle in a darkened room to represent the sun. Hold an 8 cm rubber ball in one hand to represent the earth. Hold a 2-cm ball in the other hand to represent the moon. Hold the ball representing the earth in the beam of light from the flash light and observe the shadow cast by the earth. Next pass the smaller ball or moon behind the earth into the shadow. The moon will be in eclipse while it passes through the earth's shadow.

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**Anatomy of a Lunar Eclipse**

A total lunar eclipse can only occur at Full Moon, when Earth blocks the sunlight normally reflected by the Moon. Some sunlight is bent through Earth’s atmosphere, typically allowing the Moon a coppery glow. This diagram, not to scale, looks down on the solar system from above.

![Diagram of a lunar eclipse](https://www.space.com/32662-lunar-eclipse-diagram-02.html)

*Source: SPACE.com Graphic / Robert Roy Britt, SOURCES: Fred Espenak, NASA; The Moon Book*