

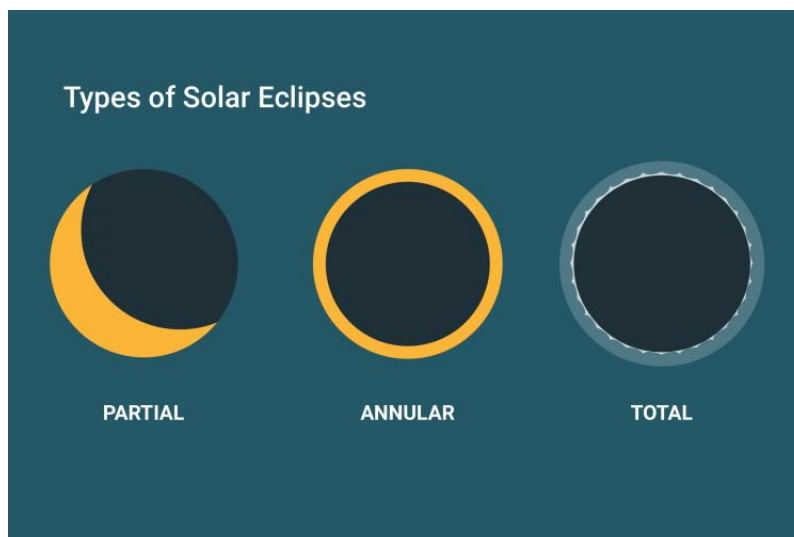
Basic Facts about Solar Eclipses

What is a solar eclipse? A solar eclipse occurs when the moon is the position between Earth and the Sun. Covering the Sun, it casts a shadow over the Earth. This phenomena happens only during the New Moon phase which is during the day time.

What is an annular solar eclipse? An annular solar eclipse happens when the Moon covers the Sun's center, leaving the Sun's visible outer edges to form a "ring of fire" around the Moon. Annular comes from the Latin word, annulus, meaning ring.

What is a total solar eclipse? A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon covers the Sun's disk completely. The Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun during the new moon phase.

A solar eclipse happens about every 6 months somewhere on Earth.



The United States has an extraordinary and rare opportunity to witness and celebrate two solar eclipses within 6 months of each other; the annular solar eclipse (ASE) on October 14, 2023 and a total solar eclipse (TSE) on April 8, 2024.