

Partial solar scclipse over North America Thursday

October 22 2014



A woman (C) reacts while watching a partial solar eclipse with a child at the Sydney Observatory on May 10, 2013

A partial solar eclipse will be viewable across much of North America on Thursday, but experts urged would-be sky watchers to use the proper gear to avoid damaging their eyes.

The eclipse will be visible when the Moon passes in front of the Sun,

obscuring just about half its [bright light](#), in the late afternoon of October 23.

New York and the rest of the US northeast will likely miss it because the Sun will be setting by the time the Moon moves into position. A tiny bite may be visible at sunset.

But people in Los Angeles should see 45 percent of the Sun's diameter covered at 3:38 pm local time (2238 GMT).

In Seattle, almost two-thirds of the Sun should be covered at 2200 GMT, and the eclipse will cover just over half the Sun for viewers in Denver and Chicago.

Rather look up, people are advised to use special solar filters made of black polymer, not regular sunglasses.

"The Sun is so bright that even through ordinary sunglasses you can damage your eyes if you stare at it," said Jay Pasachoff, a professor at Williams College in Massachusetts and chair of the International Astronomical Union's Working Group on Eclipses.

Another other option for looking directly at the Sun is to do so through a welder's glass, number 12, 13, or 14.

To safely see the eclipse indirectly, punch a hole a quarter of an inch (half centimeter) into a piece of cardboard. With the Sun at your back, use that hole to project its image on the ground or on a wall.

A more dramatic solar eclipse is in store for the United States on August 21.

At that time, the Moon will entirely cover the Sun across a 60-mile wide

(97-kilometer) swath of the United States, while the rest of the country should see about 80 percent of the Sun covered.

© 2014 AFP

Citation: Partial solar scclipse over North America Thursday (2014, October 22) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-10-partial-solar-sclipse-north-america.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.