

# Blind children in Chile get solar eclipse experience

June 26 2019

---



A blind child interacts with a representation of the solar system during sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, at the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

A group of children at a Chilean school for the blind used sound and braille Tuesday to experience conditions that resemble a total solar eclipse.

The project at the Hellen Keller school in Santiago comes a week before a July 2 solar eclipse that will plunge parts of South America into darkness.

Thousands of tourists and scientists will gather in northern Chile, which will be among the best places in the world to watch the next the eclipse. The phenomenon will also be appreciated in other South American countries.

The [blind children](#) heard different tones using special headphones and LightSound, a tool to experience the variation of light intensity during a solar eclipse through sound. They also read the book "Open your senses to eclipses: South America," using braille.

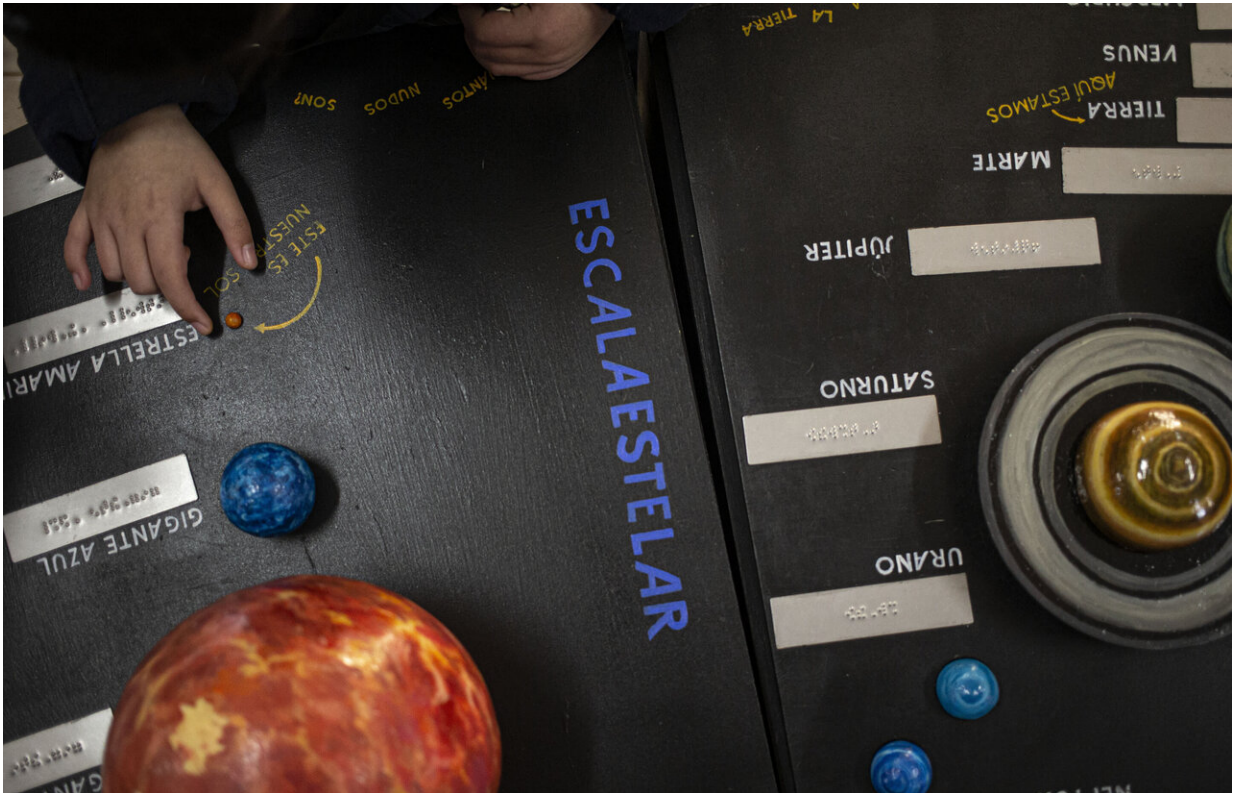
The experience of touching and hearing a solar eclipse was possible thanks to a joint initiative by NASA, the Chilean Aeronautics and Space Agency, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Chile's Diego Portales University and the Giant Magellan Telescope.

"Being able to explain basic concepts of astronomy, being able to explain eclipses ... it's an effort that we must continue," said Miguel Roth, an astronomer at the Giant Magellan Telescope.



Blind school children take part in a sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, during an event in the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)





A blind child interacts with a representation of the solar system during sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, at the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)



The entrance of the Helen Keller School is festooned with eclipse themed decorations during sensorial experience for the blind, with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, at the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

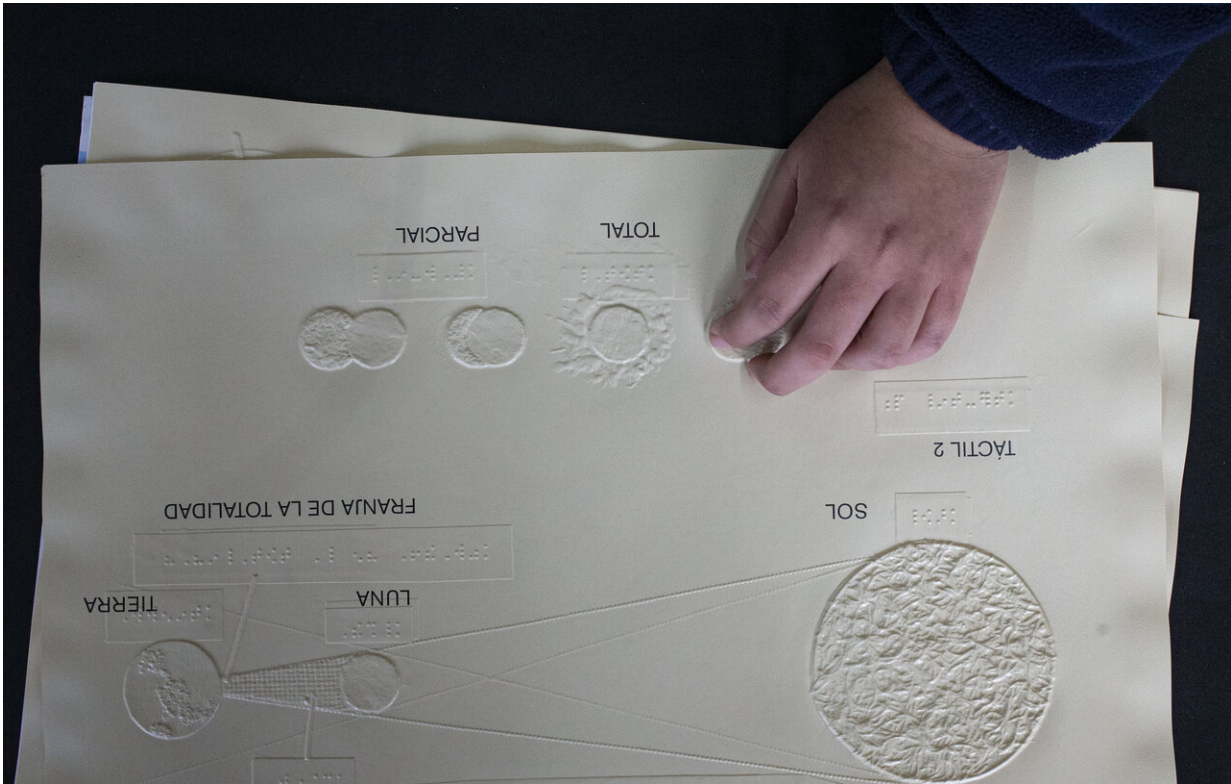


A blind child interacts with a representation of the solar system during sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, at the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)





Blind school children take part in a sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, during an event in the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)



A blind child takes part in a sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, during an event in the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)





Blind school children take part in a sensorial experience with tools created by NASA and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to experience an eclipse, during an event at the Helen Keller school in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The event comes exactly one week ahead of a total solar eclipse which is set to be fully visible in various South American countries, including Chile. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

A book in braille and a dozen units of the LightSound technology will also be available to children in other Chilean cities, said María Ximena Rivas, director of the SENADIS national office for disability.

A [solar eclipse](#) occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, and scores a bull's-eye by completely blotting out the sunlight.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Blind children in Chile get solar eclipse experience (2019, June 26) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-children-chile-solar-eclipse.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.