


Kids Activities during the 2017 Solar Eclipse

(see www.CountdownToEclipse.net for more information)

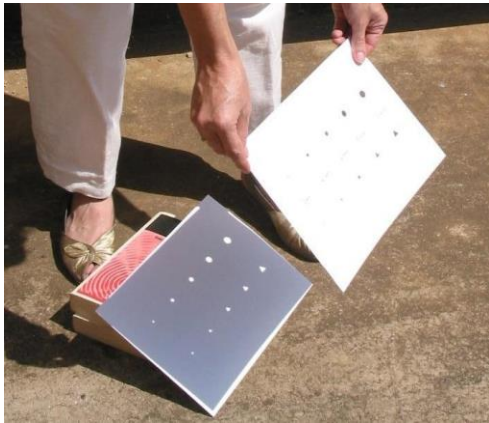
Though totality lasts only a few seconds, the partial eclipse before and after totality lasts over an hour. Consider these activities to keep kids busy and safe.



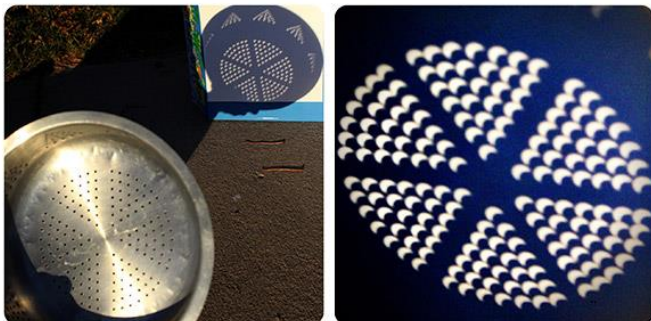
Set out a thermometer in a bright sunny area. When the partial eclipse begins, have your child take a photo of the thermometer every few minutes. As the moon eclipses more and more of the sun, you will see the temperature drop. And as the moon leaves the sun, you will see it rise again!



Hold your hands together and cross your fingers. The little “holes” will create a pinhole projector as you look at the shadows they make. See the tiny eclipses right before you!



Punch different sizes and shapes of holes in a card. Hold them up to the sun and see what shapes they mark on a card below them. NOW move the card farther away and see what shapes you see. Do they change? If so, why? It's magic! Or is it science??!!



Hold a kitchen colander up and look at the little eclipse shadows made by the holes in the colander. What fun!

Nature can make its own pinhole projector! Just look at the shadow shapes made by the leaves in a tree!



Or build your own pinhole projector! Cover one end of a tube with aluminum foil and poke a tiny hole with a needle. In the other end of the tube, cut a little “mouse hole” and tape white paper on the bottom of the tube.



Hold the pinhole projector with the foil end pointing at the sun. Do not look at the sun to aim the projector. Instead, look at the shape that the projector makes on the ground. Rotate the projector till the shadow shape is roughly circular.

Make minor alignment adjustments while looking in the viewer end of the projector. You will see a round bright light on the whitepaper. This is the sun! Sometimes you can even see sunspots!

The longer the tube, the bigger the size of the projected sun. To calculate the size of the projected sun, divide the tube's length (in feet) by 9. This gives the sun's image diameter in inches

