

What's Up in the Night Sky for MAY



Presented by

Night Sky May 2024 Events | Aquariid Meteor Shower 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QoGltqj220>

Tonight's Sky: May

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeRSwy8PkM8>

12 AMAZING FACTS

This month's 10 amazing facts (actually 12 this month) are about Solar Eclipses.

1. There are 4 types of solar eclipses: total, annular, hybrid and partial.
2. Darkening Threshold: It takes about 90% coverage of the Sun for noticeable darkening during a solar eclipse. Even at 99%, the sky remains no darker than civil twilight.
3. Size Illusion: The Earth is about 400 times farther from the Sun than the Moon. Their apparent sizes are similar, making the Moon's passage in front of the Sun block its light.
4. Occultation: A solar eclipse is known as an "occultation", derived from the Latin meaning "to hide or conceal."
5. Frequency: There are about 2 to 5 solar eclipses each year visible at different locations on the Earth.

6. **Duration:** The length varies due to Earth's changing distance from the Sun and the Moon's varying distance from Earth. They can last up to 7 minutes and 30 seconds.
7. **Eclipse Chasers** are called "umbraphiles" (shadow lovers).
8. **Historical Significance:** Ancient cultures often viewed eclipses as omens or signs of impending doom.
9. **Telescopic Observations:** The first known occurred in France in 1706.
10. **Eclipse Blindness:** Even a tiny sliver of the Sun can burn a person's eyes and make crescent-shaped burns on the retina.
11. **Eclipses and Poles:** The north and south poles never see a total solar eclipse.
12. **New Moon Requirement:** Solar eclipses only occur during New Moon, when the Moon aligns between the Sun and Earth.



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