

# WHAT IS A SOLAR ECLIPSE?

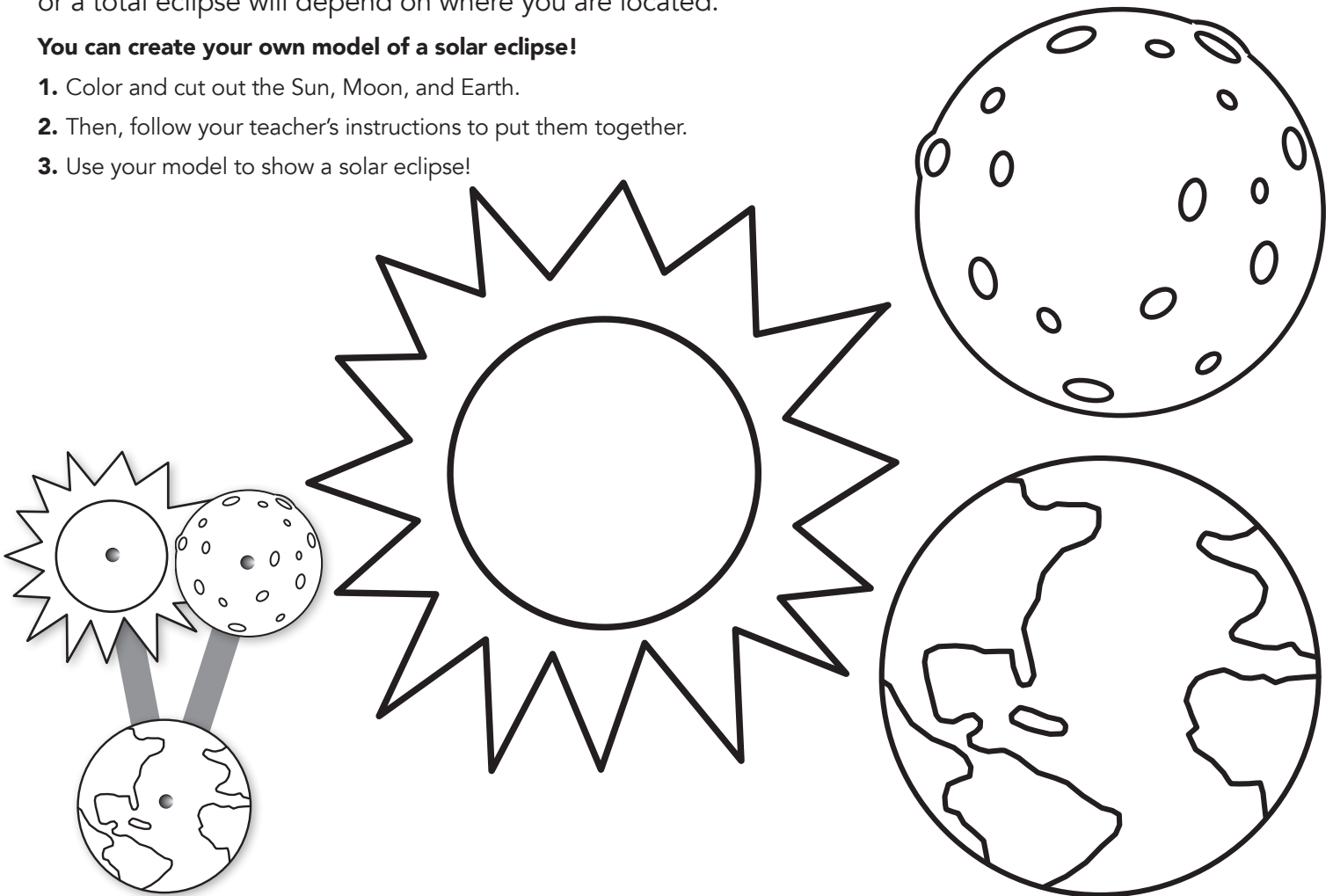


[Note: The 2024 solar eclipse is on a Monday. It was on a Saturday when this comic was first published.]

In a solar eclipse, the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun. A *partial solar eclipse* happens when the Moon's shadow blocks part of the Sun. A *total solar eclipse* happens when the Moon's shadow blocks the entire Sun. This causes the sky to get dark during the day. On April 8, 2024, people in almost every state in the U.S. will experience a solar eclipse. Whether you experience a partial eclipse or a total eclipse will depend on where you are located.

## You can create your own model of a solar eclipse!

1. Color and cut out the Sun, Moon, and Earth.
2. Then, follow your teacher's instructions to put them together.
3. Use your model to show a solar eclipse!



**FAMILIES!** Visit <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/> to get ready for the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. It will be twenty years before another solar eclipse crosses North America. Consider writing about the April 8 eclipse as a keepsake to look back on during the next eclipse. Add pictures of your children enjoying the eclipse safely! See safety tips at <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>.