

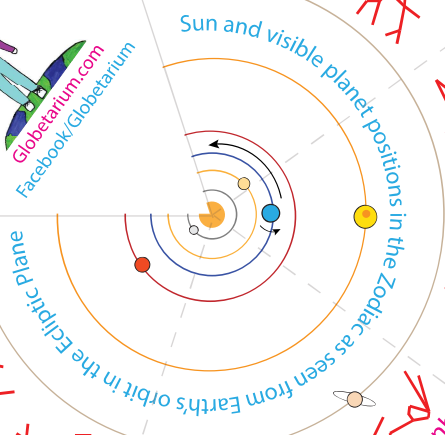


About 300X larger diameter

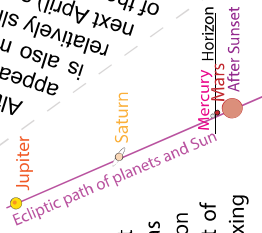
Although the Sun is much larger than the Moon, they appear to be about the same size in the sky because the Sun is relatively closer to the Moon blocks the Sun entirely (total eclipse of the Sun uncovered (annular eclipse this past October), is also much more distant. During a solar eclipse if the Moon is relatively slightly closer the Moon blocks the Sun entirely (total eclipse next April) and if the Moon is relatively slightly further away it leaves a ring

Why do the Sun and Moon look the same size?

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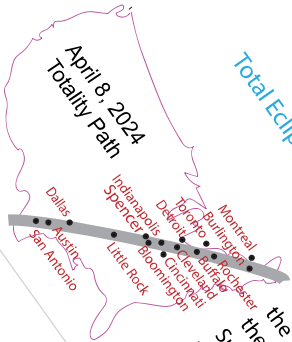
Sun and visible planet positions in the Zodiac as seen from Earth's orbit in the Ecliptic Plane



Ecliptic path of planets and Sun

Morning and Night Sky November 11-18, 2023

All week: Saturn visible right after sunset in West as Jupiter rises in East along the Ecliptic. Mercury and Mars lost in the Sun's glare. Venus visible to the East as the Morning Star before dawn. Moon approaches New Moon as it passes in front of Sun and then emerges later in the week as waxing Crescent Moon visible after Sunset in the West.



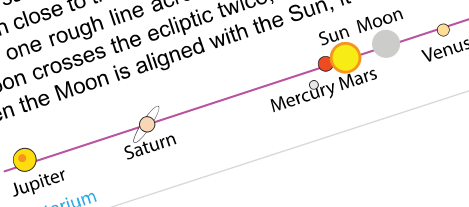
April 8, 2024 Totality Path

Total Eclipse Countdown: 21 weeks!

Next year's solar eclipse will completely block the Sun for over four minutes on the Totality Path. Each month the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth (New Moon), and each month it crosses the ecliptic plane twice. When it crosses during a New Moon, the Moon is exactly between the Earth and Sun so it eclipses the Sun.

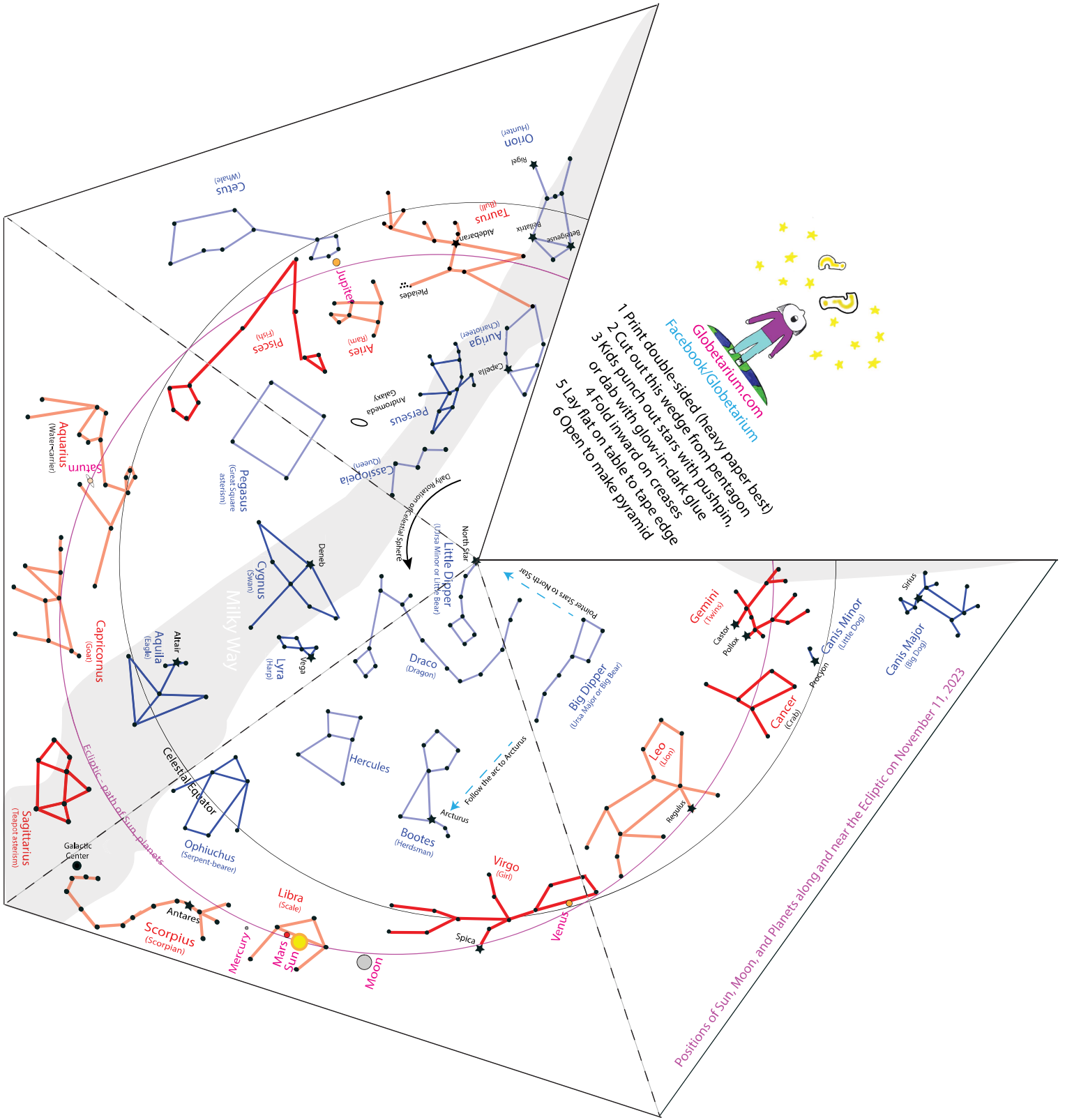
Why are the Sun, Moon, and Planets in a line?

Earth and the visible planets orbit the Sun in nearly the same plane (the ecliptic plane), and the Moon orbits the Earth in close to the same plane. So we see the Sun, Moon, and planets in one rough line across the night sky (the ecliptic). Each month the Moon crosses the ecliptic twice, and if it crosses during a New Moon just when the Moon is aligned with the Sun, it eclipses the Sun.



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- 1 Print double-sided (heavy paper best)
- 2 Cut out this wedge from pentagon
- 3 Kids punch out stars with pushpin, or dab with glow-in-dark glue
- 4 Fold inward on creases
- 5 Lay flat on table to tape edge
- 6 Open to make pyramid

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Positions of Sun, Moon, and Planets along and near the Ecliptic on November 11, 2023