

Total Lunar Eclipse

As Earth orbits the Sun, the Moon travels about Earth. Sometimes the Moon passes through Earth's shadow in space and observers on Earth witness a lunar eclipse. The image below shows the progression of a total lunar eclipse; read from right to left. The Full Moon is seen in step #1. The eclipse begins in step #2 when the Moon enters Earth's shadow on the Moon's left half. Step #3 shows the Moon hidden in Earth's shadow. Step #4 shows Earth's shadow retreating on the right side. Finally, the Full Moon is seen again in step #5 when the eclipse has completely ended.

KEY



Earth's shadow on Moon

