

WorldWide Telescope Ambassadors Program



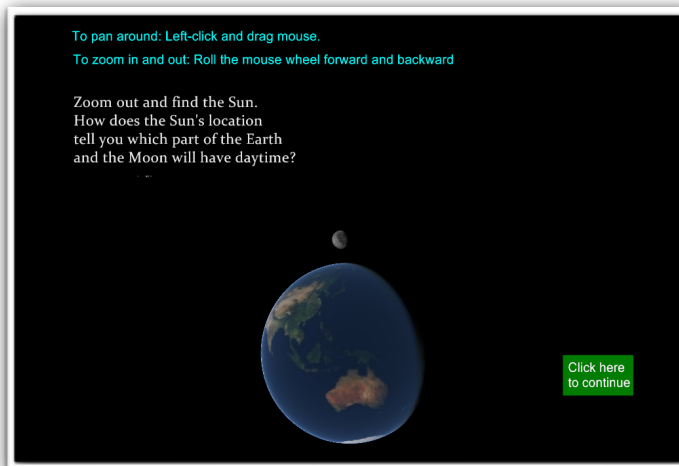
Quick Start: Phases of the Moon and Eclipses

There are many great resources that teach students to identify the names of different Moon phases. This lesson aims to teach students WHY the Moon has phases. Students will use both physical and virtual models to make “observations” of the Moon and to predict what the Moon will look like based on its location in its orbit. This lesson uses the exciting new technology of WorldWide Telescope (WWT) to help students develop a deep understanding of the causes behind the Moon’s phases, and why we experience eclipses.

But what is WorldWide Telescope?

WorldWide Telescope (WWT) is a free computer program that enables students to explore the universe in incredible detail. WWT compiles the best imagery from telescopes all over the world into rich 2-D and 3-D maps of the sky, across the whole electromagnetic spectrum.

Students can manipulate and interact with the program, visualizing almost everything we know about the universe in ways they never could before. One middle school student declared WWT: **“Cooler than Call of Duty!”**



What’s in this lesson?

- A guide for creating a physical model of the moon’s phases
- Two interactive WWT Tours that teach students about moon phases and eclipses
- Accompanying worksheets
- A lesson plan giving instructions for every step of the process

How do I run the WWT tours?

- Download WWT for **free** from worldwidetelescope.org. (This lab currently runs in Windows only)
- Download resources from the WWT Moon Phases and Eclipses Lab page, including the WWT tour files (.wtt extensions)
- Double click on the .wtt file to open and run the tour.

