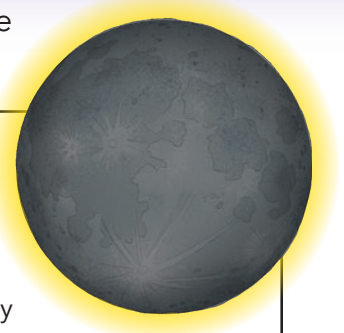# BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Everyone who experiences the solar eclipse on April 8 can share the same experience as NASA's scientists. Get ready to be part of this nationwide science experiment!

Part 1: **Start with the facts.** During a total solar eclipse, the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun, blocking most of its light. But this only happens in places on the *path of totality*. This is the path the Moon's shadow makes as it travels over Earth blocking the Sun. For the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse, the path of totality in North America will be about 115 miles wide. If you live in the middle of this path, it will get dark for about 4 minutes. If you live somewhere else on the path, you will see a *partial eclipse* because the Moon won't completely cover the Sun. This means it won't get as dark.

Part 2: **Time to observe!** NASA conducts many experiments during a solar eclipse to learn more about the Sun and how it affects Earth. You can be a scientist, too — a citizen scientist! People all over the country will be helping scientists collect information and data about the eclipse. You can help by watching the eclipse with a grownup and recording what you see in the chart below. Compare your results with friends and family, just like scientists do.

First, ask a grownup to type in your town's name at **www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2024-april-8** to find out what type of eclipse you will experience: partial or total. Next, review the solar eclipse safety rules with your grownup by visiting **https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/**. During the eclipse on April 8, complete the chart together.

Your Location (Town and State): _____

Type of eclipse: ☐ Partial ☐ Total

Observations:	Light	Temperature	Animal Sounds and Behavior
Before the Eclipse			
During the Eclipse			
After the Eclipse			

FAMILIES! Want to get a head start on viewing the next solar eclipse? Check out **https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/list-annular-solar.html** to learn when solar eclipses will occur worldwide over the next 10 years.