Lunar & Solar Eclipses - Webquest

Directions: Refer to the websites and answer the questions that follow.


1. What is the only lunar phase in which a lunar eclipse can occur?

2. Sketch the lunar eclipse geometry:

3. List and describe the three different kinds of lunar eclipse.

4. On average, how many lunar eclipses are there every year?

5. Why does the Moon appear to take on a colored hue during an eclipse?


6. What is the only lunar phase in which a solar eclipse can occur?

7. Sketch the solar eclipse geometry:

8. The moon's shadow consists of two parts; describe in detail what they are.

9. How long does the total phase of a total solar eclipse last?
10. The path of the Moon’s shadow across the Earth’s surface is called...?

11. What are the key differences between total and annular eclipses?

12. When is the next time we can expect to see the following in NJ:
   a. solar eclipse
   b. lunar eclipse
   c. total solar eclipse

13. Go to one of the websites below, read the directions*, and experiment with the various controls to create your own eclipses.

   http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/olcweb/cgi/pluginpop.cgi?it=swf::800::600::/sites/dl/free/0072482621/78778/Eclipses_Nav.swf::Eclipse Interactive

   *At this website read the “Introduction” and “How to” sections prior to starting


   *At this website read the “Using the Applet:” section prior to starting

Taken from: