

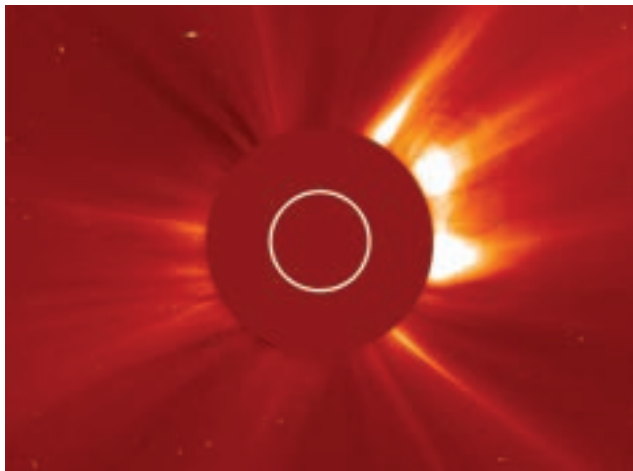
A Solar Explorer

Hakeem Oluseyi has traveled around the world to find just the right locations to see total eclipses of the Sun.

Total eclipses help him study the Sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona. Because the Sun's disc is so bright, the corona is usually hidden. But when the disc is covered, the wispy corona shines in the darkness.



Hakeem Oluseyi at a NASA Earth Day event; Source: : NASA



*PA NASA image from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory.
The central red disk is where the coronagraph blocks out the Sun.*

The Sun's corona poses mysteries for scientists, like why is the corona so much hotter than the Sun's surface. Scientists also monitor the corona because it generates solar winds and other space weather events that can affect satellites, space craft, and even communication systems here on Earth!

How does a coronagraph work?

A **coronagraph** mimics a total eclipse by blocking a star's light so the corona and other objects around the star can be seen.

