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Explain It: Path of Totality

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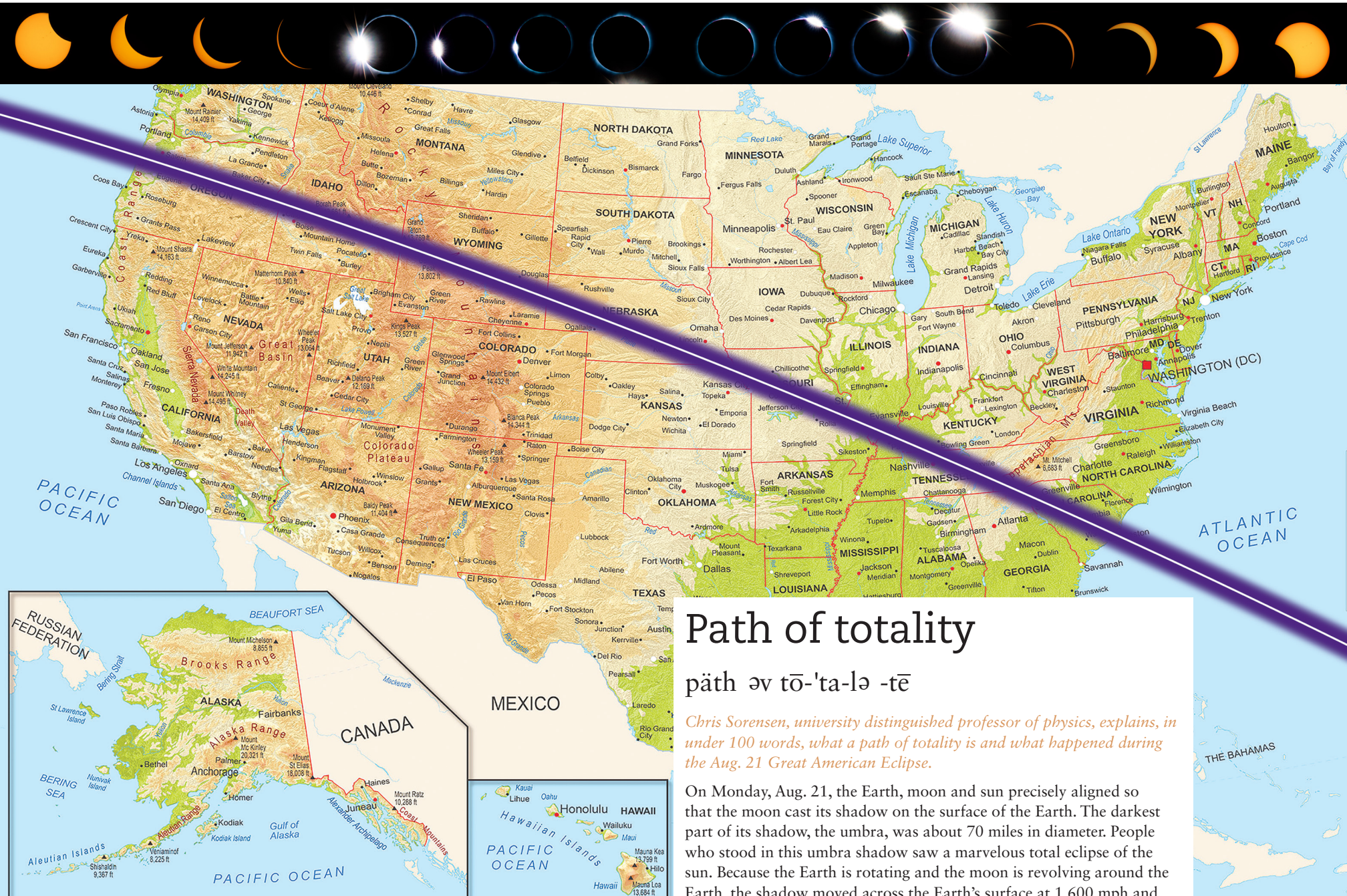
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See *Explain It*



Path of totality

päth əv tō-'ta-lə -tē

Chris Sorensen, university distinguished professor of physics, explains, in under 100 words, what a path of totality is and what happened during the Aug. 21 Great American Eclipse.

On Monday, Aug. 21, the Earth, moon and sun precisely aligned so that the moon cast its shadow on the surface of the Earth. The darkest part of its shadow, the umbra, was about 70 miles in diameter. People who stood in this umbra shadow saw a marvelous total eclipse of the sun. Because the Earth is rotating and the moon is revolving around the Earth, the shadow moved across the Earth's surface at 1,600 mph and scribed a path of totality from Oregon, through northeast Kansas, to South Carolina.



youtu.be/ZtJMmJQ7sUs

Though viewing conditions were forecast to be less than ideal in northeast Kansas, a group of Kansas State University faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community braved the elements and journeyed to Highland, Kansas, on a trip sponsored by K-State and the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Watch their journey to view totality in this video, "Seekers of the Eclipse."