

Stellar, solar and lunar demonstrators

Rosa M. Ros, Francis Berthomieu

*International Astronomical Union
Technical University of Catalonia, Spain
CLEA, France*



Goals

- Understand the apparent motions of stars as seen from different latitudes
- Understand the apparent motions of the Sun as seen from different latitudes
- Understand the Moon's movement and shapes as seen from different latitudes

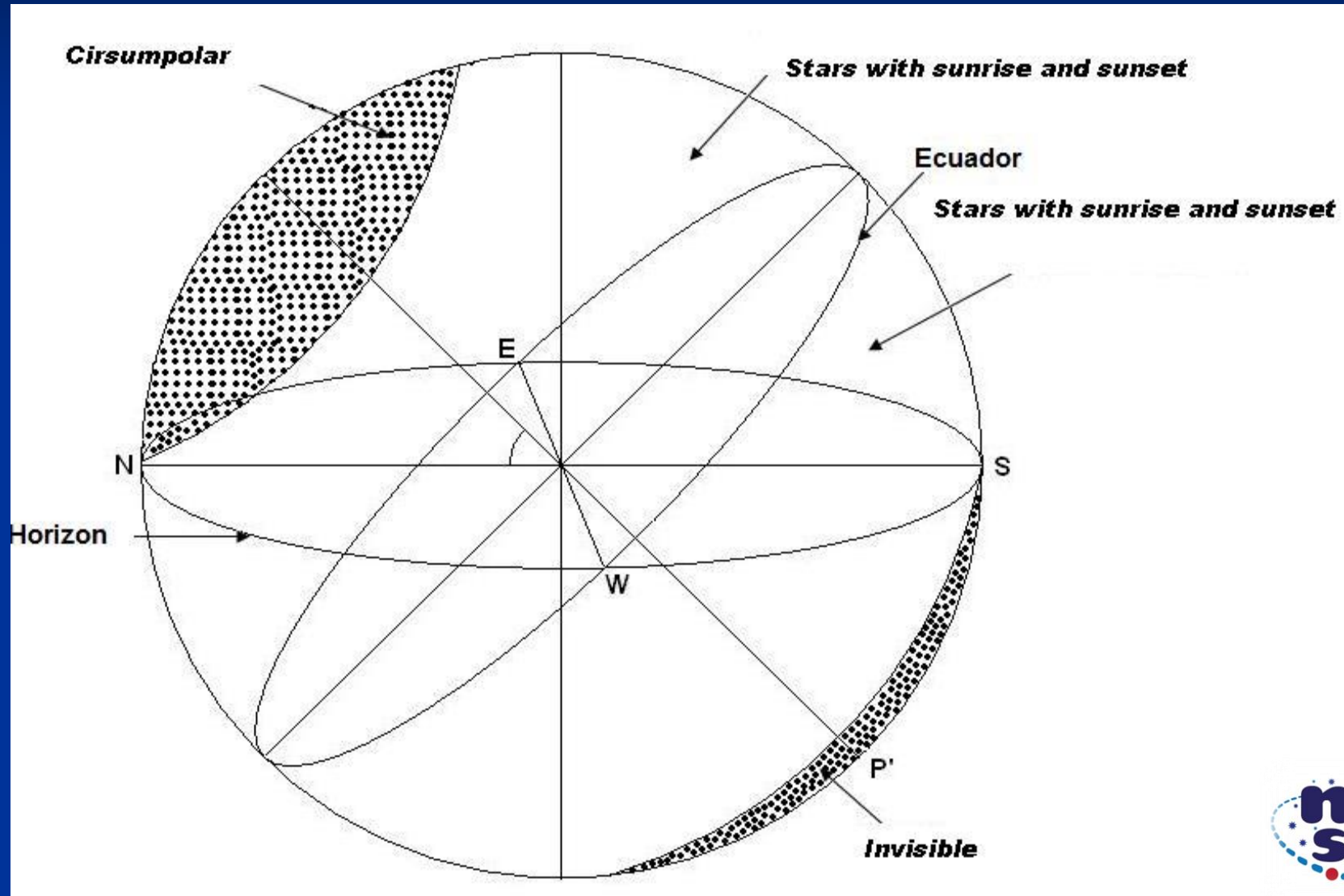


Activity 1: Stellar demonstrator for showing:

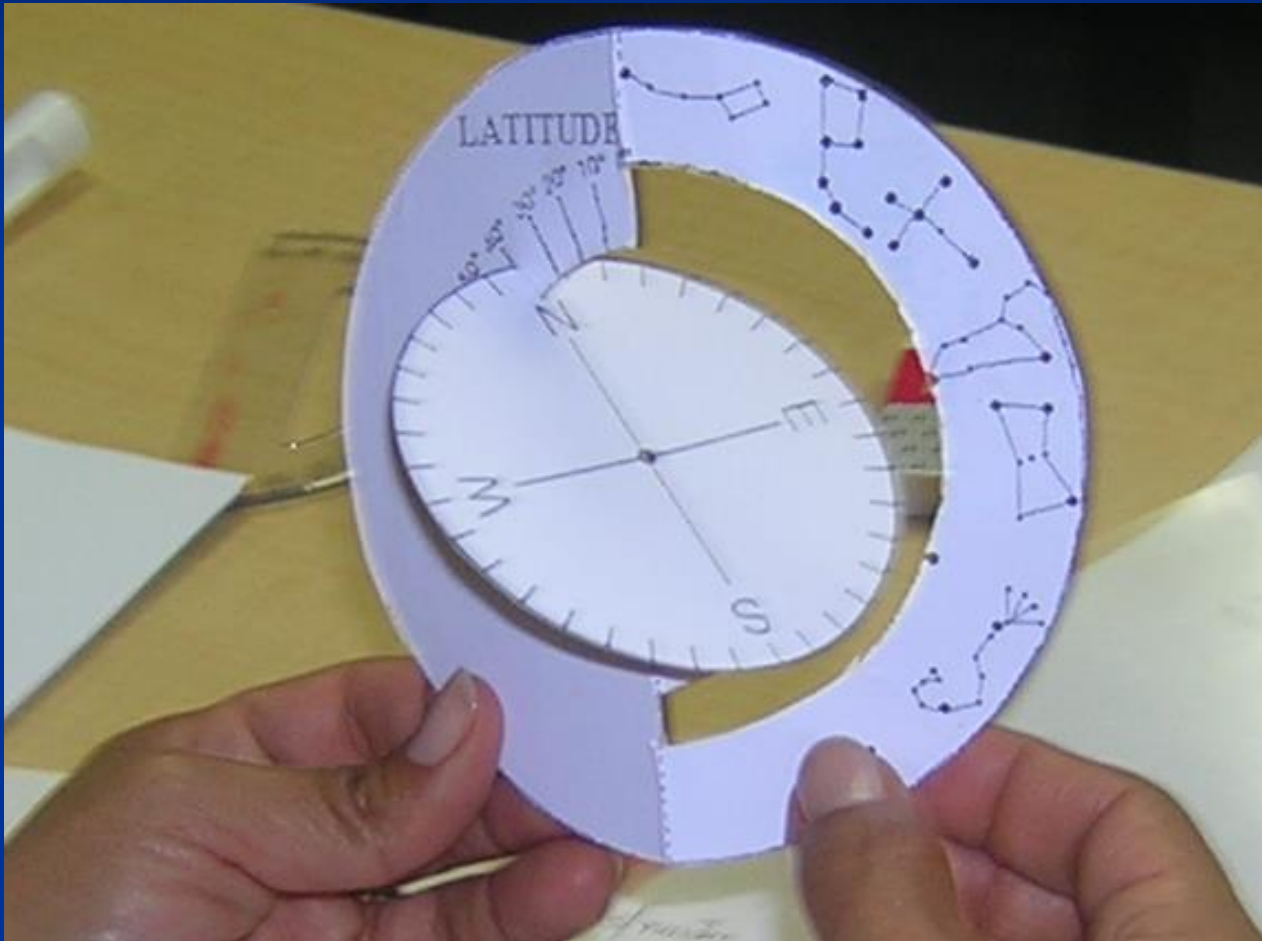
- The paths of the stars in the sky
- Circumpolar stars, stars that rise and set and stars that don't rise or set
- Travel anywhere if you know the latitude (You can build a simulator for each location)



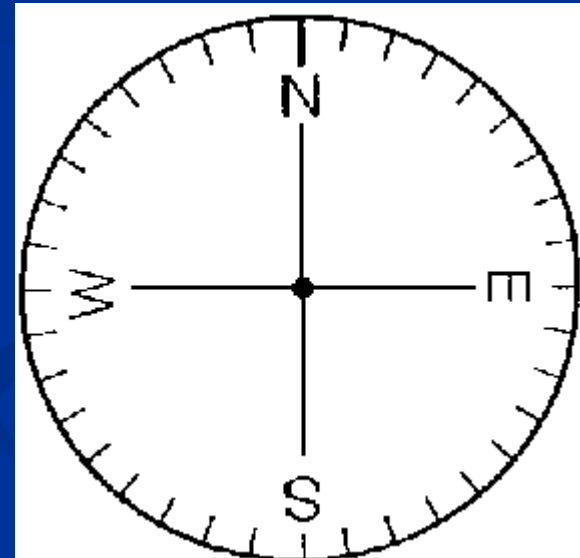
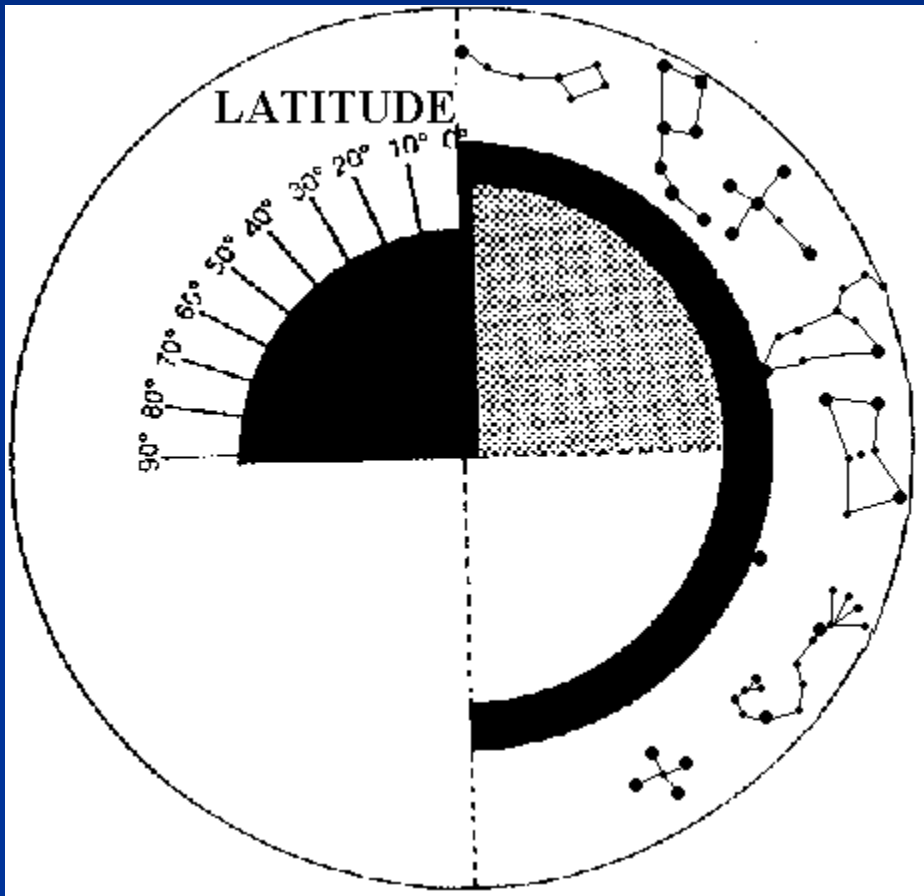
Circumpolar / stars that rise & set / stars that don't rise or set



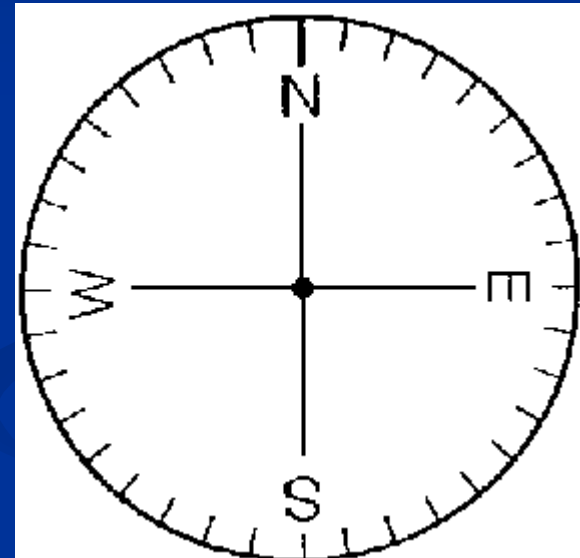
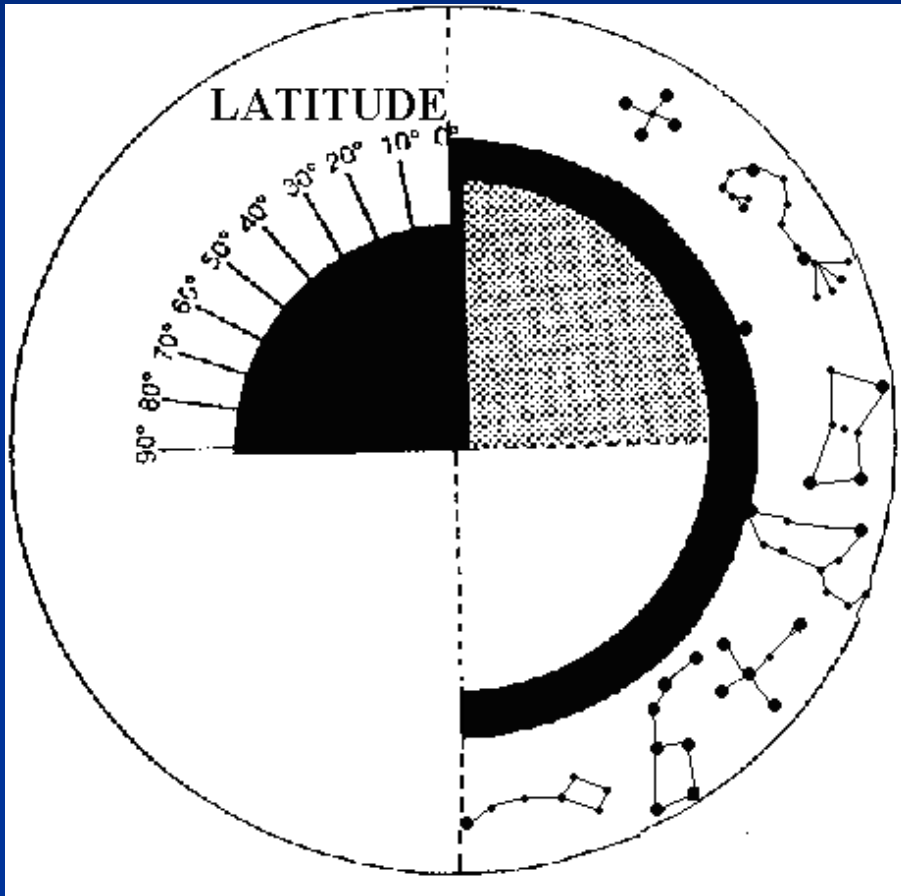
Stellar Demonstrator



Stellar demonstrator for the Northern Hemisphere

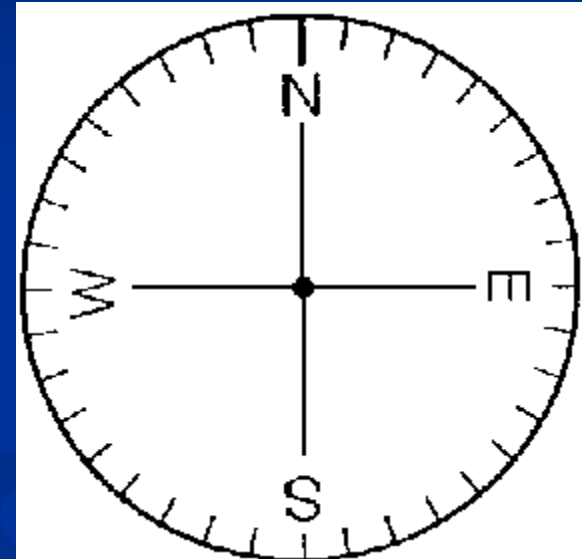
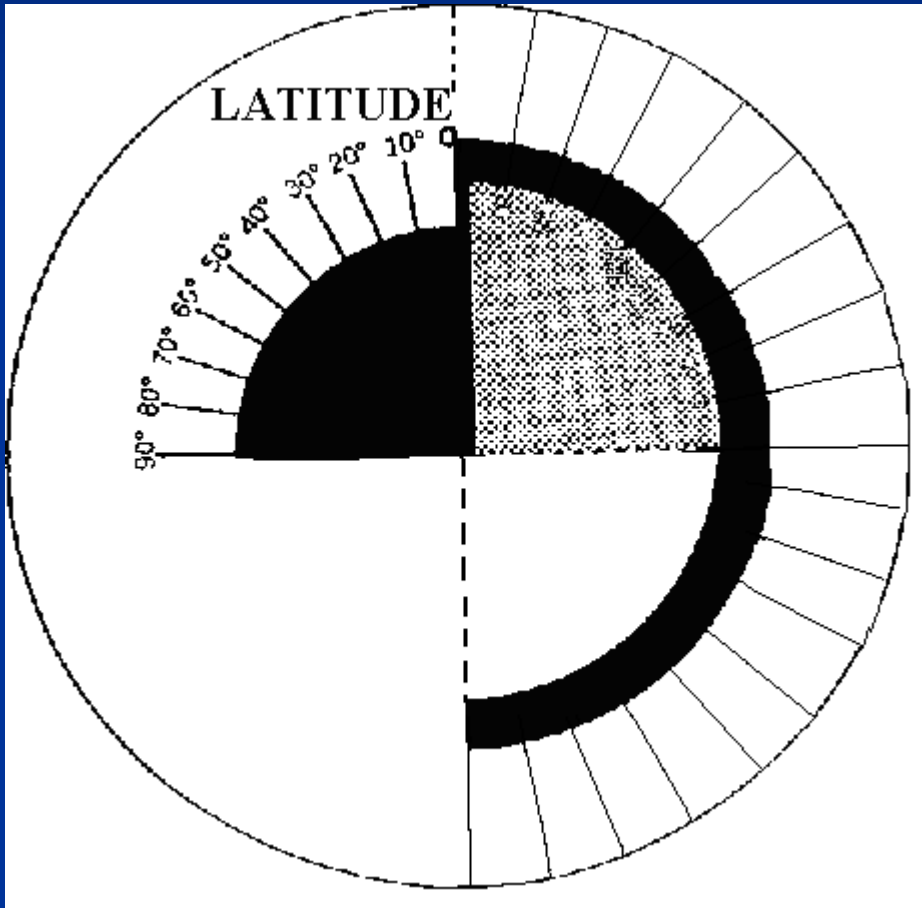


Stellar demonstrator for the Southern Hemisphere



Blank stellar demonstrator

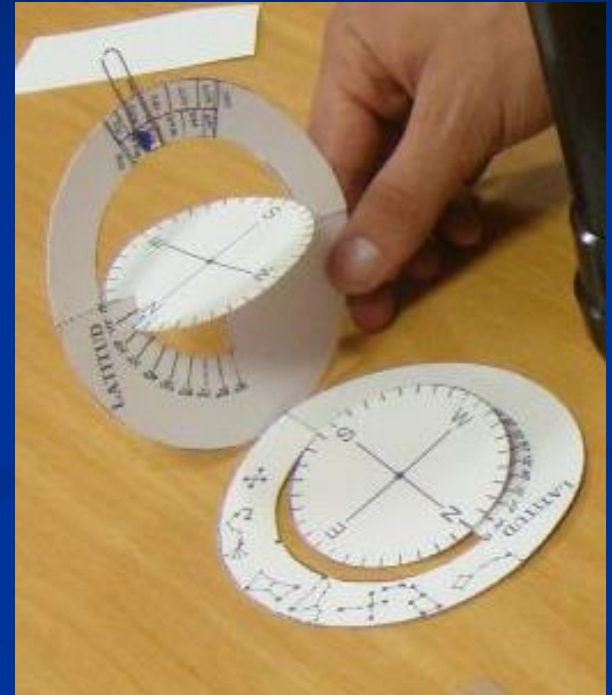
(add desired constellations)



- Spring
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter
- or each month

Construction

- The explanations given for construction depend on your location:
- Northern hemisphere
- *Southern hemisphere*



Building instructions - Step 1

- Make a photocopy on heavy-weight paper
- Cut both pieces (the big one and the small one) along the continuous lines
- Remove the black areas
- Fold the main piece along the straight dotted line



Building instructions - Step 2

- Cut a small notch above the “N” (Northern hemisphere) in the horizon disk *or the “S” (Southern hemisphere) in the horizon disk*
- Glue the North-East quadrant (Northern hemisphere) of the horizon disk onto the grey quadrant of the main piece. The “W” point must match up with latitude 90° *or the South-West quadrant (Southern hemisphere) of the horizon disk onto the grey quadrant of the main piece. The “E” point must match up with latitude 90° .*

Try to be careful in this operation because the accuracy of model depends on the correct alignment of the two parts.



Building instructions - Step 3

- Fit the incision “N” (Northern hemisphere) into the quadrant over the degrees of latitude
or the incision “S” (Southern hemisphere) in the quadrant over the degrees of latitude
- Hold the horizon disk perpendicular to the latitude degree disk
- Begin to use by setting it for any desired latitude...



The tilts of stellar paths

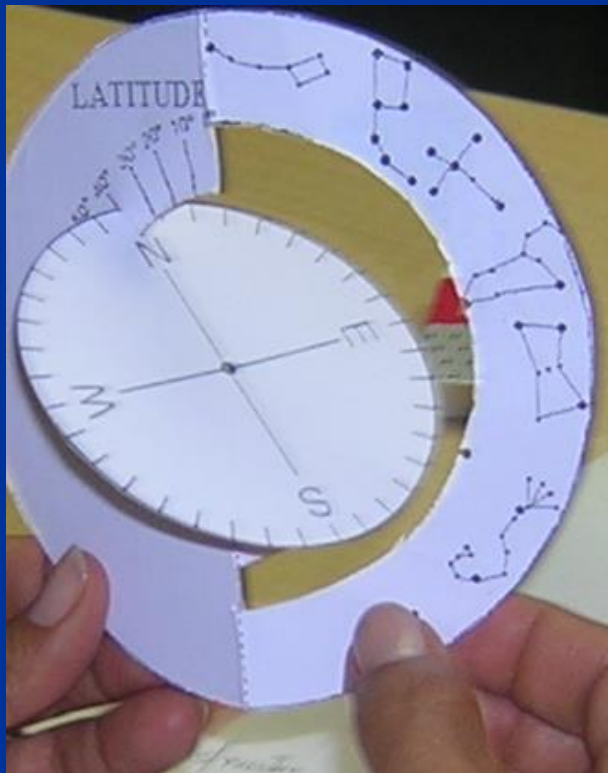
Lat 70°
Enontekiö
Finland



Lat 41°
Montseny
Spain



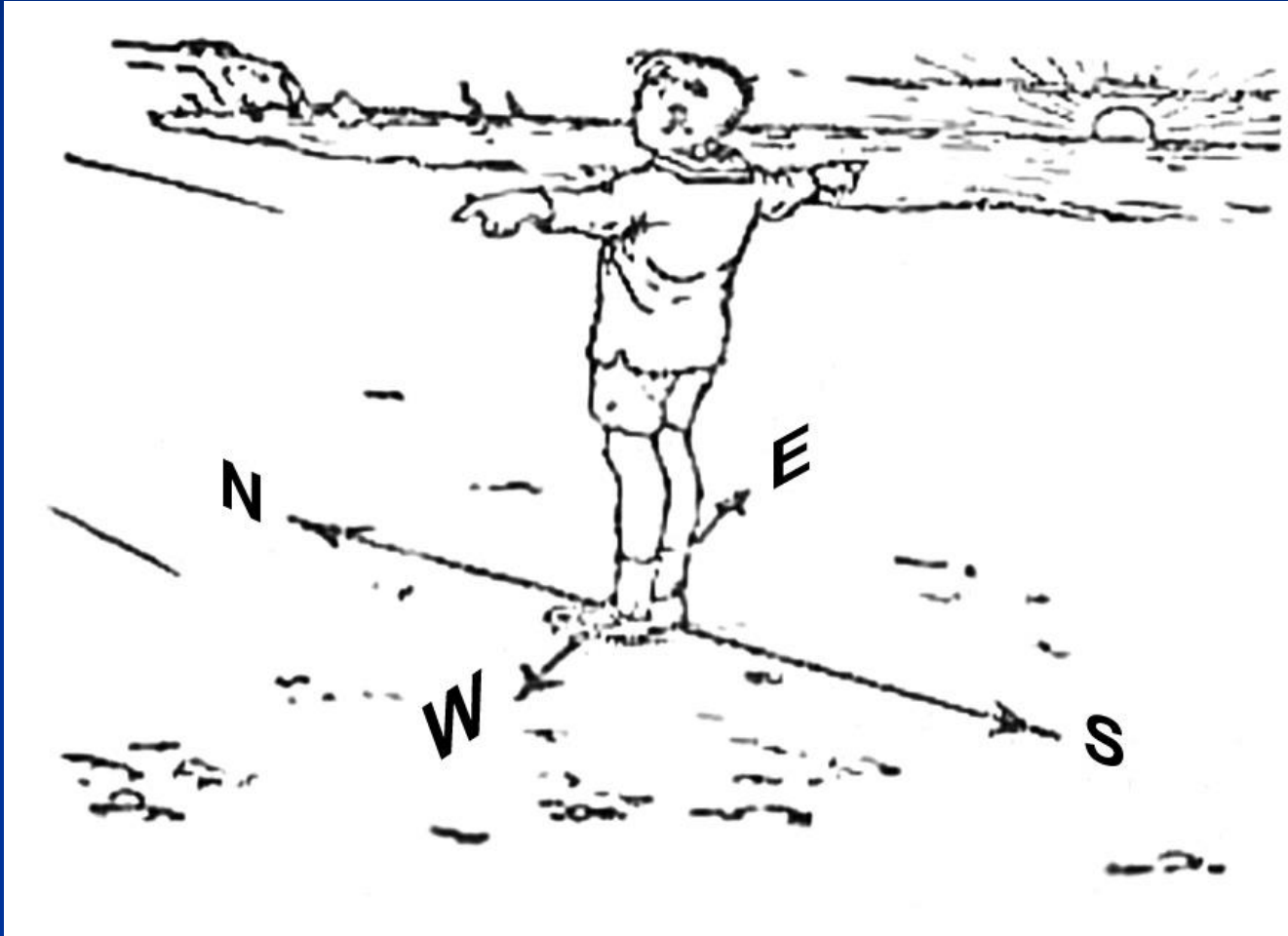
Lat 23°
Matehuala
Mexico



Where is the sunrise?



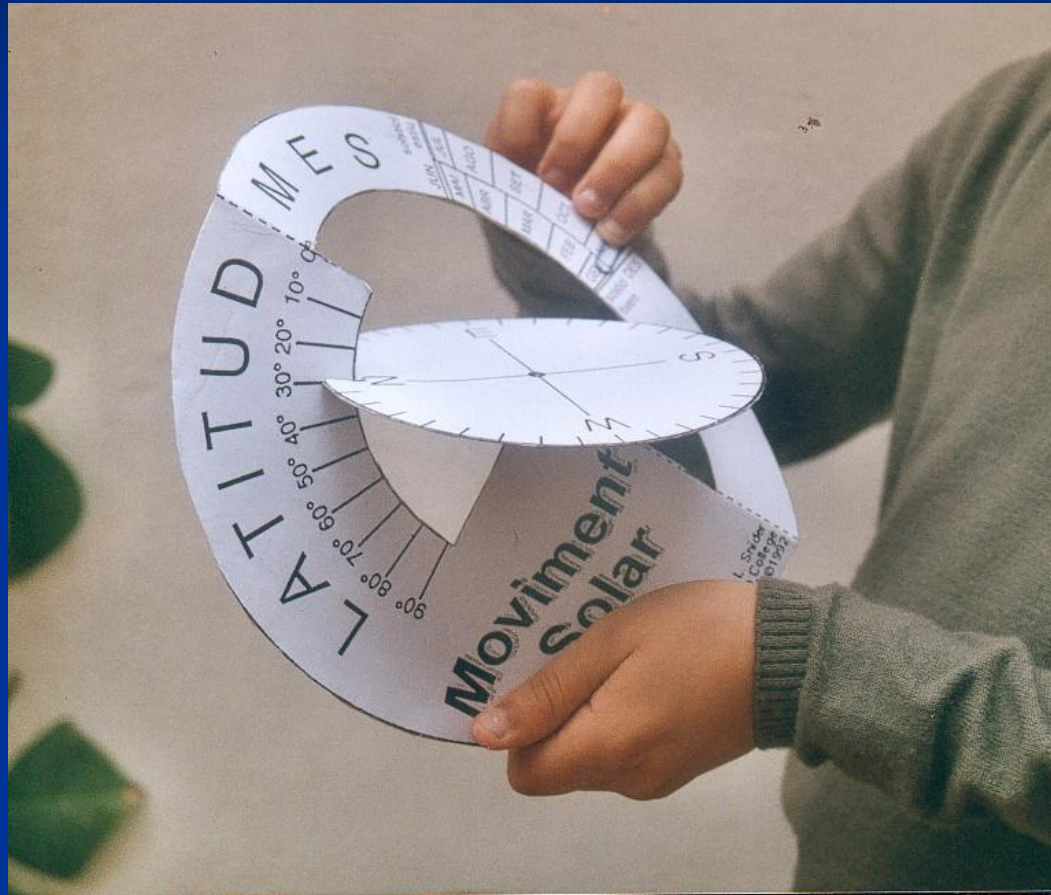
Is this picture correct?



The sunrise is always due East and
the sunset is always due West.
Is this correct?



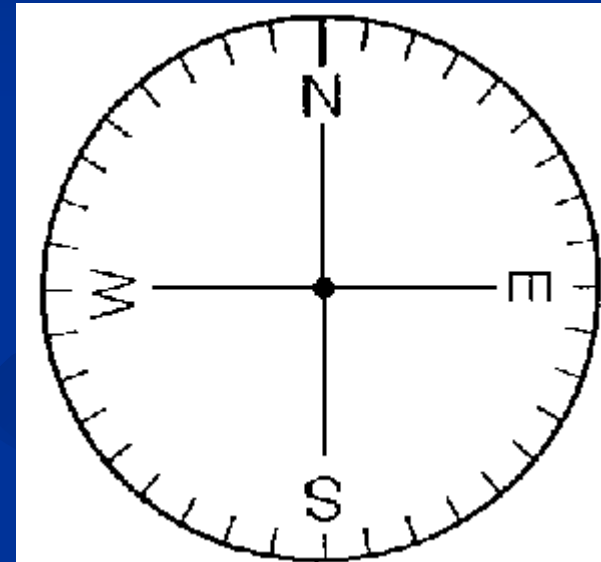
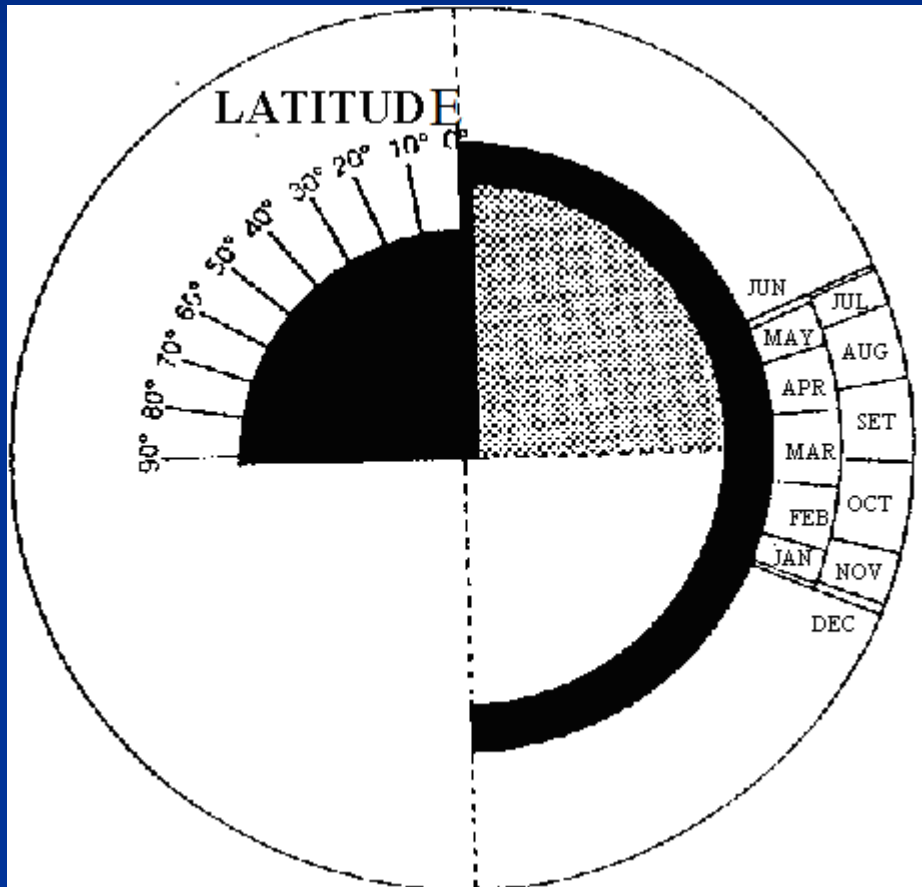
...with another demonstrator



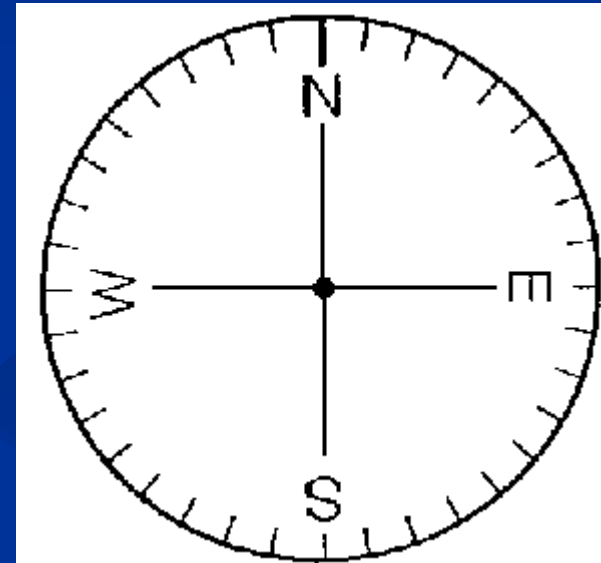
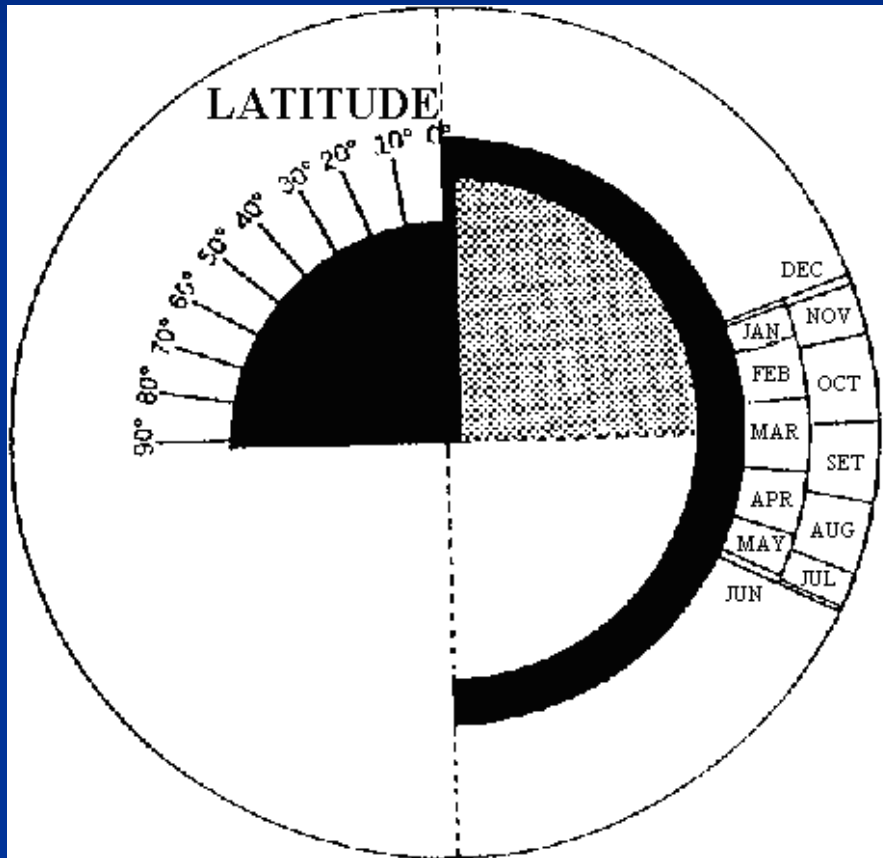
Activity 2: Solar demonstrator for showing:

- Daytime solar path
- Annual motion of the Sun
- Study risings and settings
- Midnight Sun
- Travel anywhere if you know the latitude

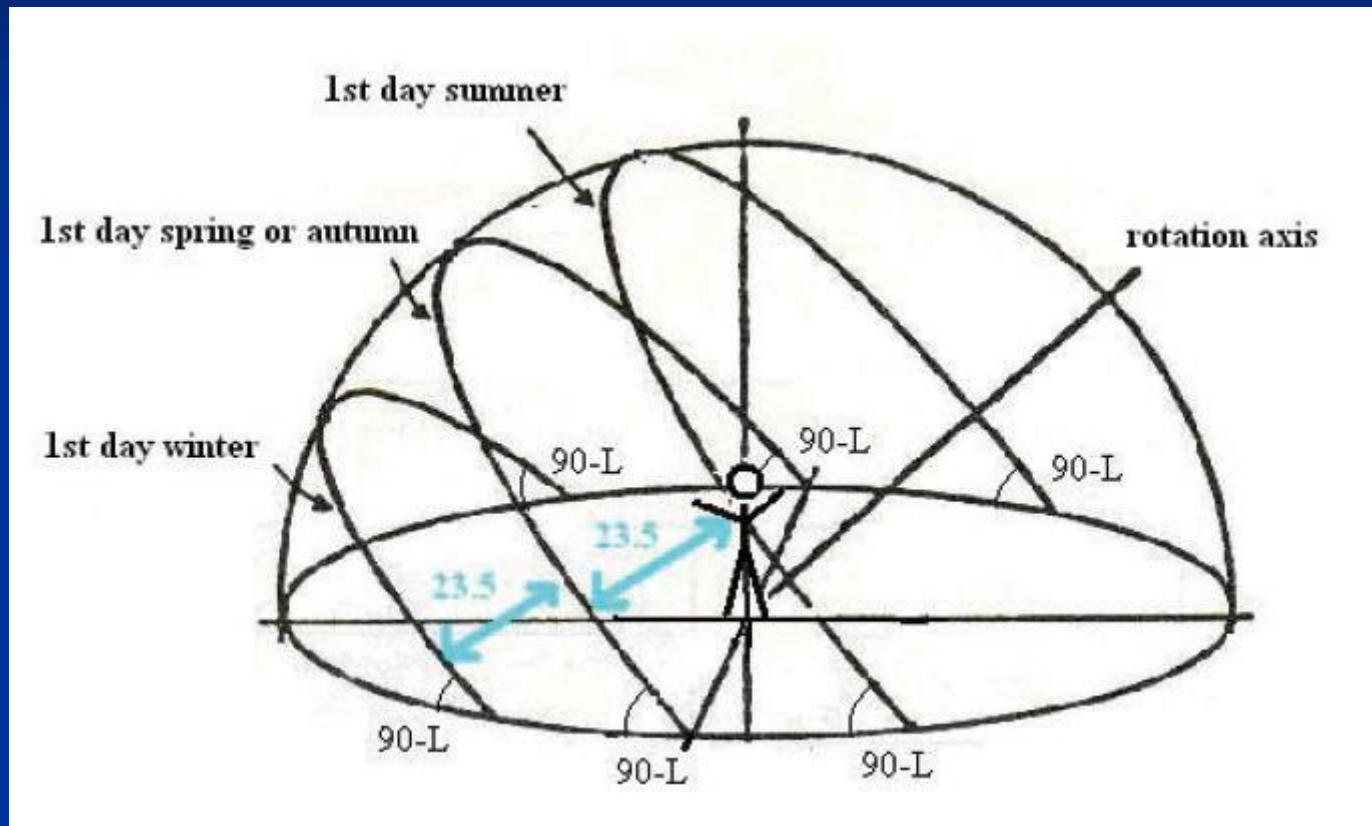
Solar demonstrator - Northern hemisphere



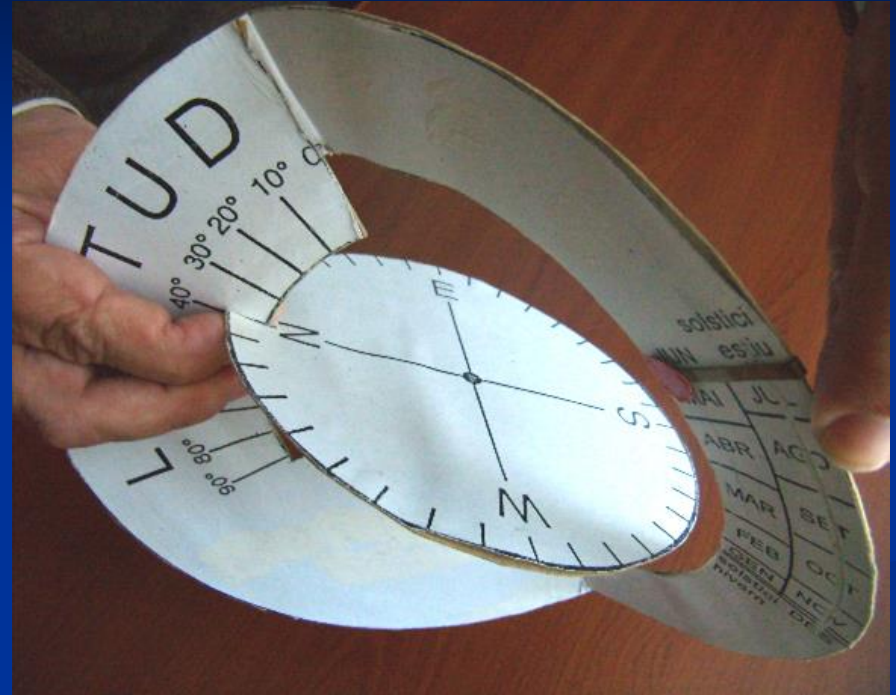
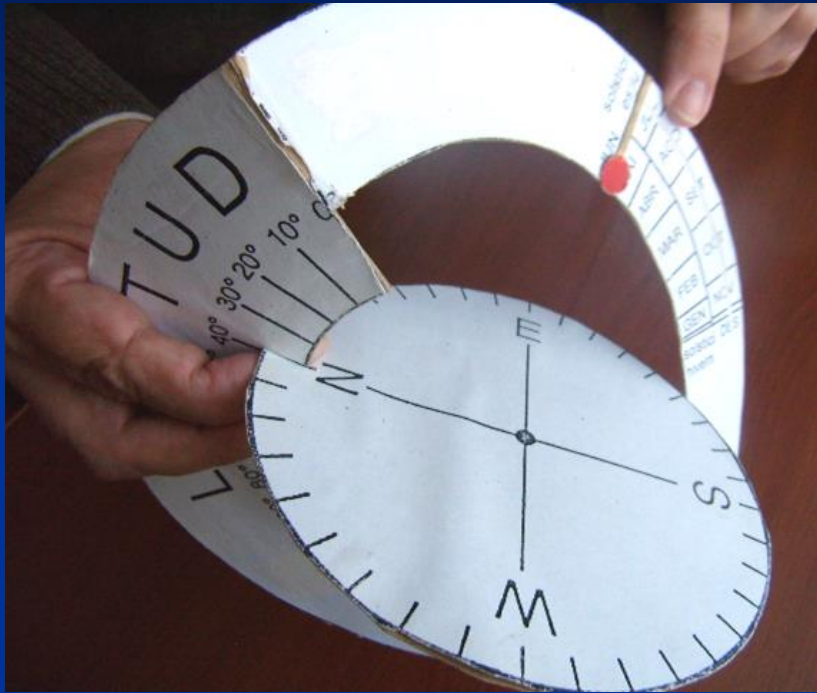
Solar demonstrator - Southern hemisphere



The paths of the Sun



The Sun's path



- Place “N” at proper latitude
- Place the marker at required date
- Move date “arm” to show Sun’s path through a day
- Note the positions of Sunrise and Sunset

Slope of the Sun's path

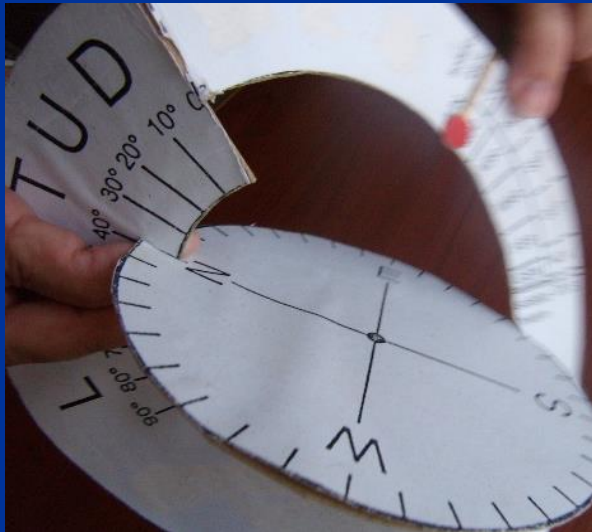
Lat 70°
Enontekiö
Finland



Lat 40°
Gandía
Spain



Lat 5°
Ladrilleros
Colombia



Height of the Solar path



Summer and Winter in Norway



Sunrises and Sunsets in different places



57° Riga, Latvia



40° Barcelona, Spain



2° Popayán, Colombia

winter



spring
autumn



summer



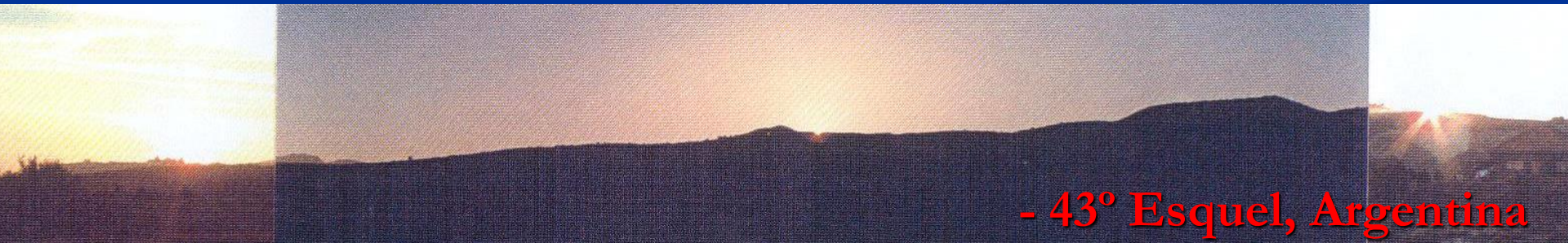
Sunrises and Sunsets in different places



2 ° Popayán, Colombia



- 19° La Paz, Bolivia



- 43° Esquel, Argentina

winter



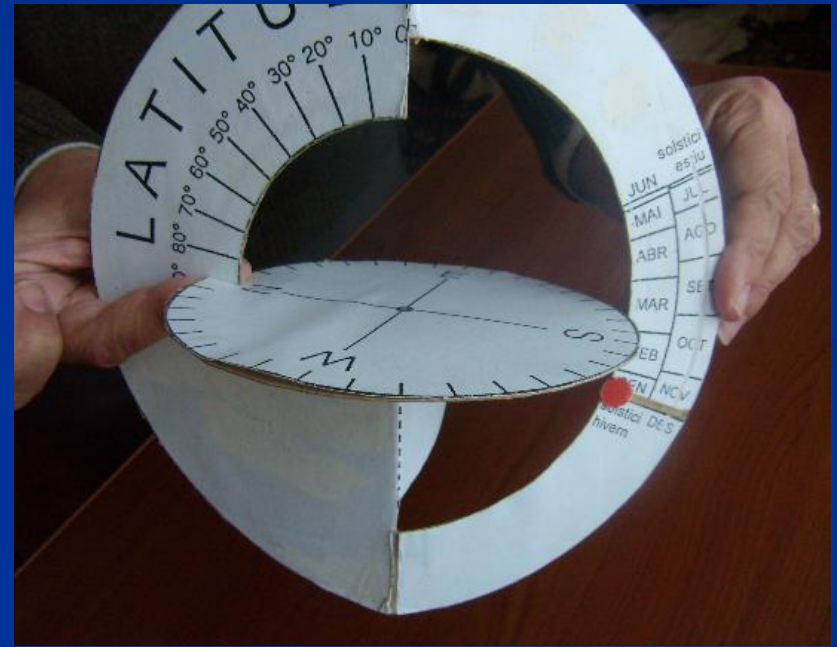
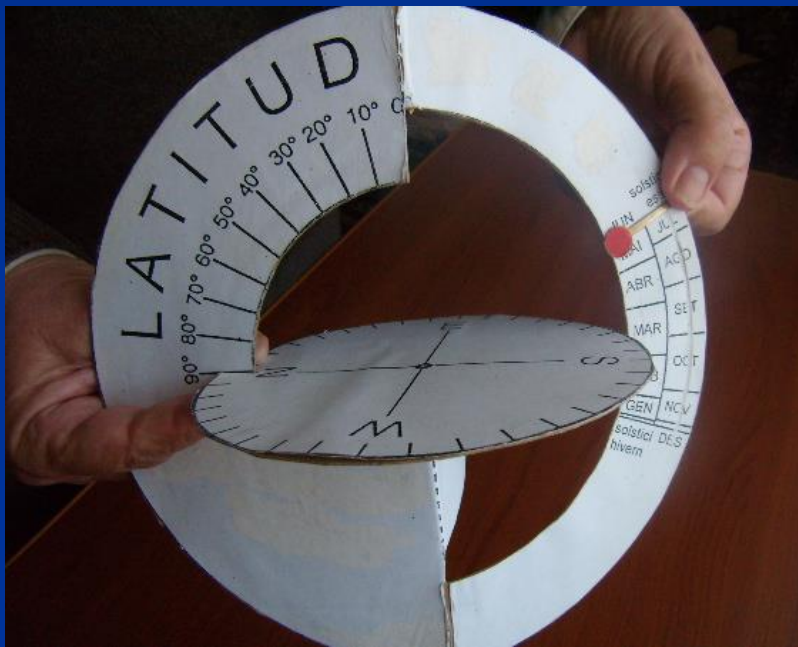
spring
autumn



summer



Polar summer and winter

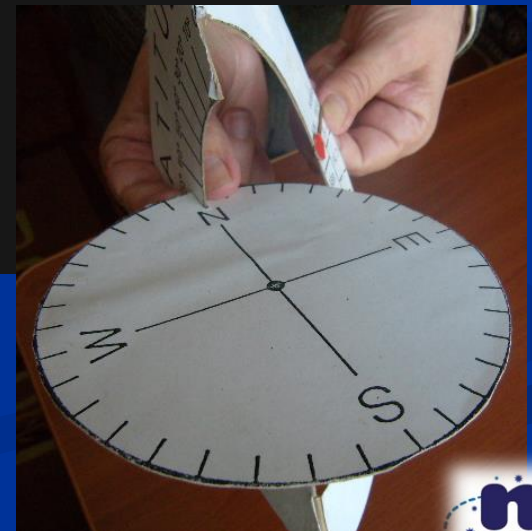


At the poles, the sun is above the horizon for half a year and below it for half a year.

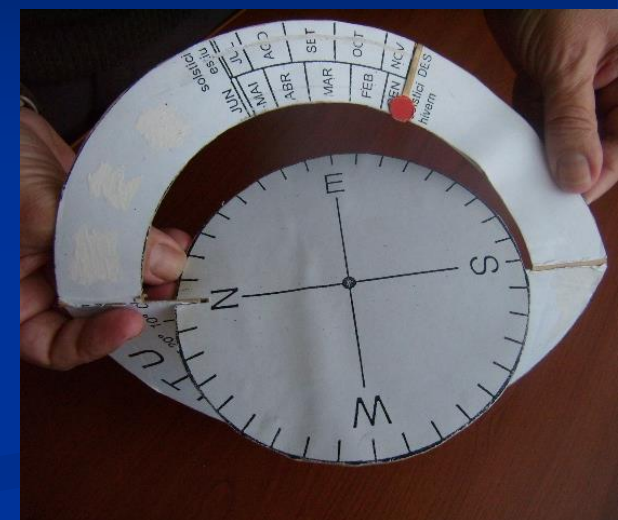
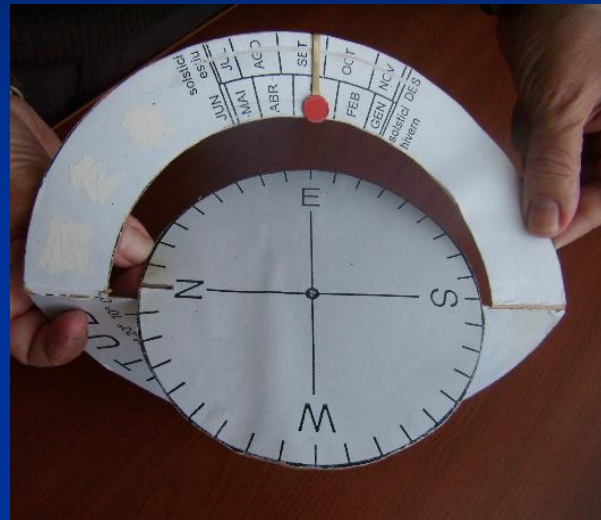
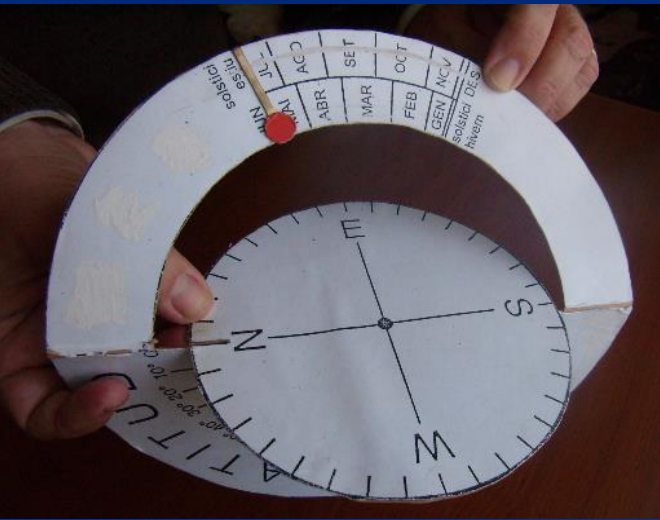
Midnight Sun



The Sun goes down until it passes the meridian and then begins to rise rather than set below the horizon.

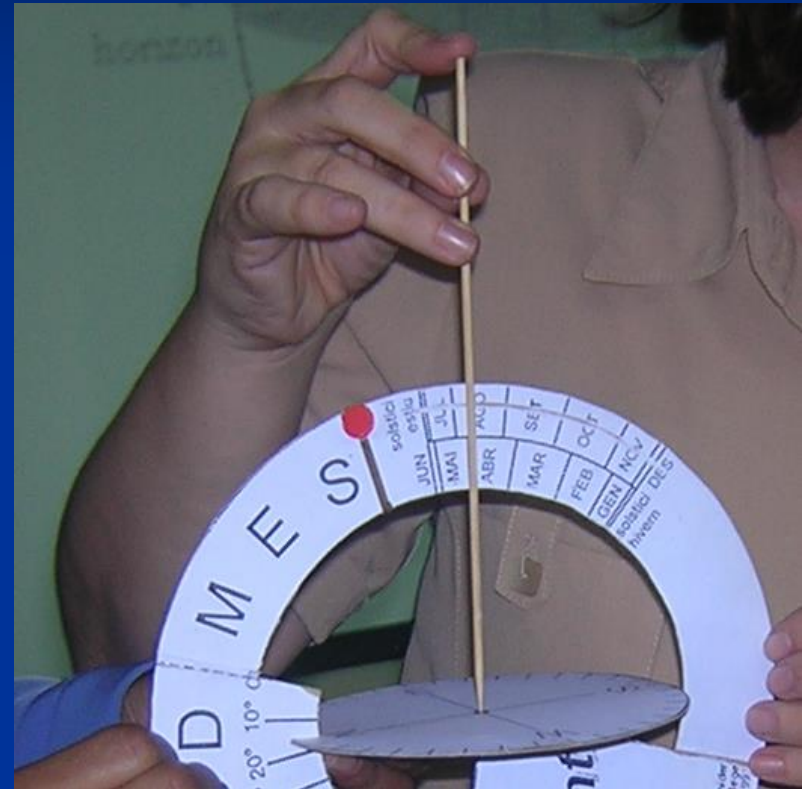


“Seasons at the equator”



The solar path is always almost perpendicular to the horizon and its length is almost the same throughout the year.

Sun at the Zenith



At Solar Noon, your shadow is on your feet.

Activity 3: Lunar demonstrator

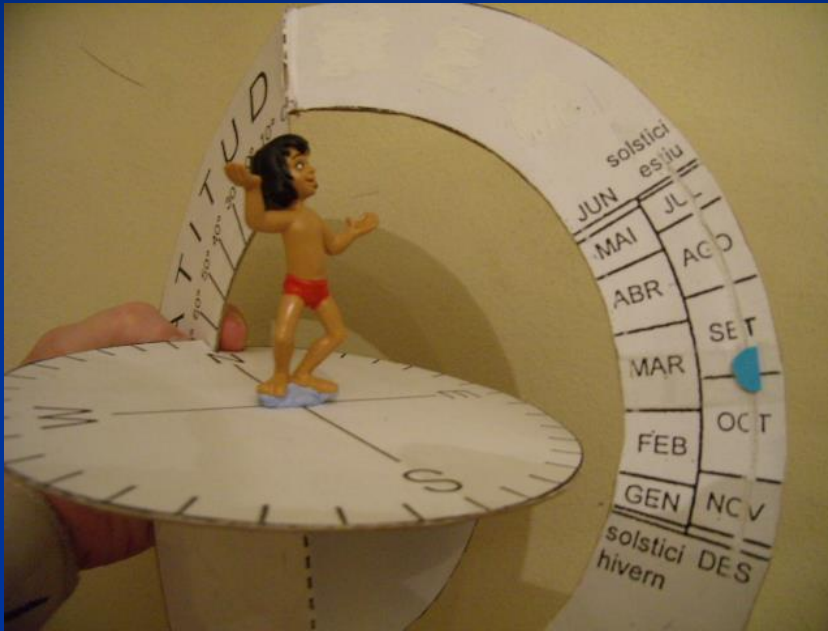
- Why does the Moon smile in some places?



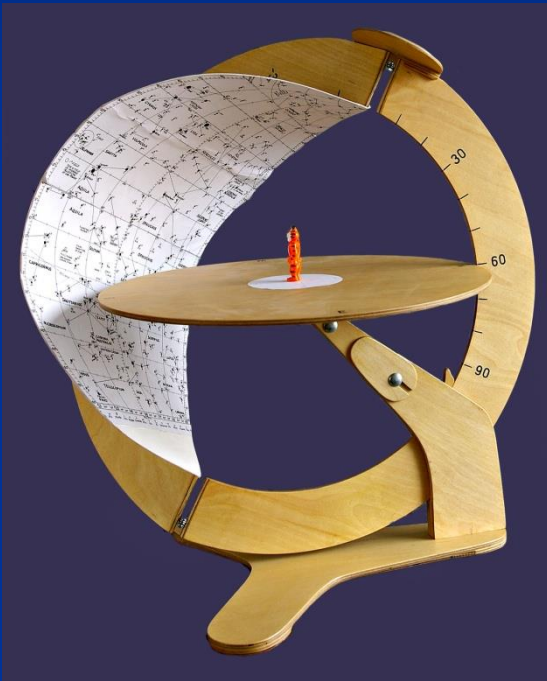
Why - yes or no....



Activity 3: Lunar demonstrator



XXL demonstrators



Thank you very much
for your attention!

