

New Heights Science Class Views Rare Transit of Mercury

On November 8th, 2006, a rare transit of Mercury across the sun occurred. The transit began at 11:12 AM PST and was visible for over 3 hours. Students from Mr. Ganz's science class observed the event using eyepiece projection from a Newtonian reflector telescope. This transit provided an unusually clear view of Mercury as it passed in front of the sun during solar minimum. In the right side photo below, tiny mercury is small black circle in the lower half of the sun's disk. The only prominent sun spot visible during the transit was the larger, elongated patch in the top half of the photo near the edge of the sun. The next transit of Mercury will not occur until 2016.

