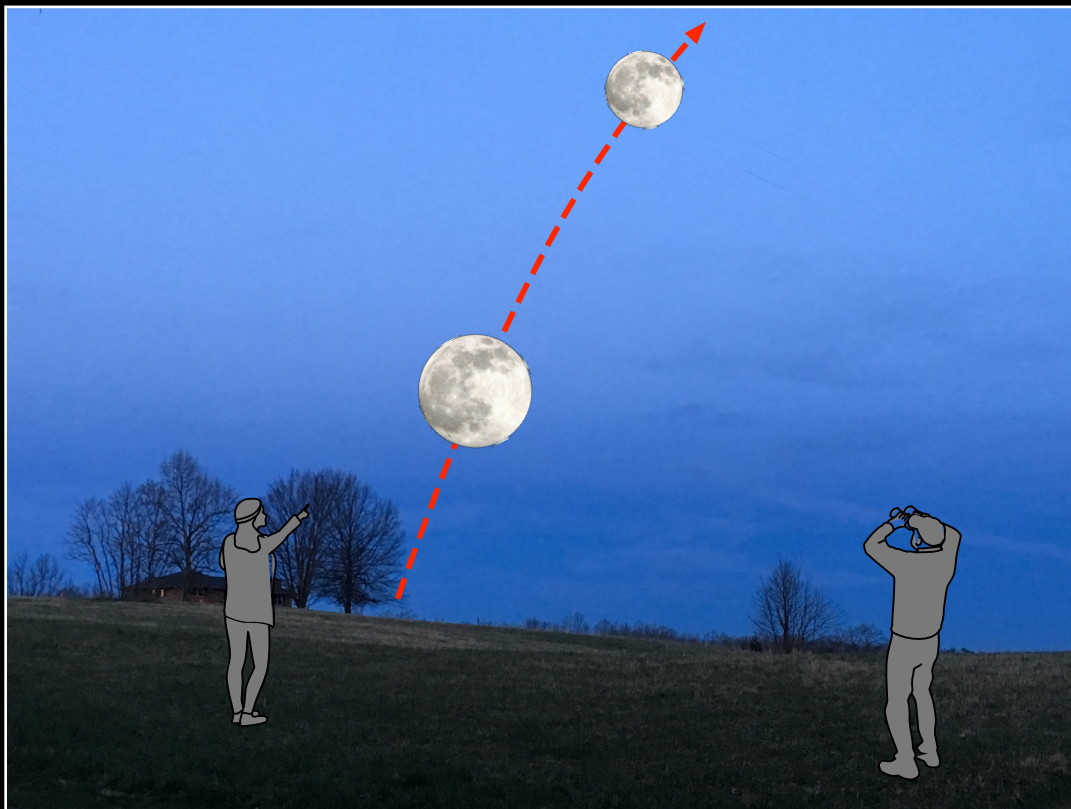




Big Moon Rising: Is it real?



When the full moon rises, it seems to be unusually large. Later, when it has climbed higher in the sky, it returns to its expected apparent size. Why is this the case?

- A. When the moon is close to the horizon, its apparent size can be compared to those of distant landscape objects. So, it seems larger than it is.
- B. When it is near the horizon, it is closer to us than when it is overhead. So, it appears bigger.
- C. It is an unconscious psychological effect. The same effect occurs over a featureless sea.

Look at the moon through a drinking straw when it is rising, and later, when it has climbed a good distance above the horizon. Does the apparent size of the moon through the straw appear to change?