

Vocabulary

asteroids—rocky, metallic objects that orbit the sun but are too small to be considered a planet

axis—the imaginary line that passes through the center of the planet from one pole to another pole

comet— a ball of ice and rock that orbits the sun

constellation—an arrangement of stars in the sky

crater—large hole in the ground that is shaped like a bowl

eclipse— astronomical event when a moon or planet passes between another planet, moon or a star

equinox — the time or date when there are equal amounts of daylight and nighttime

galaxy— a small part of the milky way, gas, stars and a large collection of dust

gravity— a force or a pull between two objects, there's greater pull with a larger mass

luminous—light given off by the stars/sun

meteoroid—small metallic objects that orbit the sun (when one hits earth, it's called a meteorite)

milky way— the galaxy that contains our solar system

orbit— the repeating path an object takes around another object

phase— the shape of the part of the moon that is illuminated or not (when it's in a new phase)

planet—large object of matter that revolves around (orbit) the sun (star)

revolution—one complete orbit of earth around the sun is called a revolution

rotation—a complete rotation on Earth's tilt that takes one full day

solar system— the planets, the moons, meteoroids, and other objects that revolve around the sun

solstice— a solstice occurs twice a year when the days have the longest amount of daylight and again when the days have the shortest amount of daylight.

star— a giant object made of gases in space that will produce its own heat and light, the sun is a star

tides—the rise and fall of the ocean (water level) due to the moon's gravity

tilt—it is the earth's tilt on its axis that causes the seasons as it orbits around the sun