

## Astronomy Vocabulary

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| <b>Asteroid:</b>      | Asteroids are rocky and metallic objects that orbit the Sun but are too small to be considered planets   |
| <b>Astronomy:</b>     | The study of everything outside the Earth's atmosphere   |
| <b>Black Hole:</b>    | A region of space with a massive gravitational pull resulting from the collapse of a star  |
| <b>Comet:</b>         | Small body in the solar system that orbits the sun that may exhibit a coma and/or a tail. The center is composed of rock, dust, and ice  |
| <b>Constellation:</b> | A group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure   |
| <b>Dwarf Planet:</b>  | A celestial body that orbits around the sun, but is not large enough to create a gravitational pull that clears other objects out of its orbit (ex: Pluto, Eris, Makemake, and Haumea) |
| <b>Eclipse:</b>       | The total or partial blocking of one celestial body by another   |
| <b>Galaxy:</b>        | A collection of star systems   |
| <b>Galileo:</b>       | Astronomer who refined the telescope for viewing the sky   |
| <b>Gas Giant:</b>     | A large planet with a relatively low density that is primarily made of hydrogen and helium (ex: Jupiter and Saturn)  |

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| <b>Ice Giant:</b>          | A large planet with a solid ice surface. The icy core is made primarily of heavy gases such as oxygen, carbon, or nitrogen (ex. Uranus and Neptune)                          |
| <b>Light year:</b>         | An astronomical unit of measure equal to the distance light travels in a year, approximately 5.8 trillion miles  |
| <b>Lodestar:</b>           | A star that leads or guides  |
| <b>Meteor:</b>             | Also called shooting stars. Meteoroids that fall through a planet's atmosphere; leaving a bright trail as they are heated to incandescence by the friction of the atmosphere |
| <b>Meteorite:</b>          | A meteoroid that reaches the surface of the Earth without being completely vaporized   |
| <b>Meteoroid:</b>          | Little chunks of rock and debris in space  |
| <b>NASA:</b>               | National Aeronautics Space Administration. It is in charge of the Apollo Program, space shuttle, satellites, International Space Station, scientific probes, and much more   |
| <b>Nebula:</b>             | Clouds of gas and/or dust in interstellar space  |
| <b>Planet:</b>             | Celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit around a star   |
| <b>Revolve:</b>            | Turn on or around an axis or a center  |
| <b>Rotation:</b>           | The act of turning as if on an axis  |
| <b>Star:</b>               | A celestial body of hot gases that radiates energy   |
| <b>Terrestrial Planet:</b> | A planet with a surface comprised of mostly silicate rocks and metals (ex. Earth, Venus, Mercury, and Mars)  |

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