

Key word	Definition
artificial satellite	A manmade spacecraft.
asteroid	Lumps of rock orbiting the Sun left over from when the Solar System formed.
astronomer	A scientist who studies space.
axis	The imaginary line that the Earth spins around.
comet	Dust particles frozen in ice that orbit the Sun.
constellation	A collection of stars that make a pattern in the sky.
day	The time it takes a planet to make one full spin on its axis.
dwarf planet	A small lump of rock in orbit around the sun.
Earth	A rocky inner planet, third from the Sun in the Solar System.
ellipse	A squashed circle or oval shape.
exoplanets	Planets in orbit around a star other than our Sun.
galaxy	A number of stars and the solar systems around them grouped together.
gas giant	An outer planet in the Solar System made mainly from gas.
gravity	A non-contact force that acts between two masses.
lunar eclipse	An eclipse that happens when the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon.
Mars	A rocky inner planet, fourth from the Sun in the Solar System.
Mercury	A rocky inner planet, closest to the Sun in the Solar System.
meteor	A piece of rock or dust that makes a streak of light in the night sky.
meteorite	A stony or metallic object that has fallen to Earth from outer space.
Milky Way	The galaxy containing our Sun and Solar System.
Moon	A rocky body orbiting Earth; it is Earth's only natural satellite.
natural satellite	A moon in orbit around a planet.

night	The period on one section of the Earth or other planet when it is facing away from the Sun.
orbit	The path taken by one body in space around another.
partial eclipse	A solar eclipse where only part of the Sun is covered by the Moon.
phases of the Moon	Shape of the Moon as we see it from the Earth.
planet	Any large body that orbits a star in a Solar System.
season	Changes in the temperature during the year as the Earth moves around its orbit.
solar eclipse	An eclipse where the Moon comes between the Sun and the Earth.
Solar System	The Sun and the planets and other bodies in orbit around it.
star	A body in space that gives out its own light.
Sun	The star at the centre of our Solar System.
terrestrial	Made of rock.
total eclipse	An eclipse where all of the Sun is covered by the Moon.
Universe	Everything that exists.
Venus	A rocky inner planet, second from the Sun in our Solar System.
year	The length of time it takes for a planet to orbit the Sun.