

asteroid

a rock or small
planet orbiting
the sun

astronomy

the study of the
sun, moon, stars,
planets and other
objects and
phenomena in space

atmosphere

the gaseous area
surrounding a
planet

black hole

something that is created when a star collapses in on itself; the collapse causes such an incredible and forceful gravitational pull that nothing can escape it, not even light

comet

a small frozen
mass of dust and
gas revolving
around the sun

constellation

a grouping of stars
that has been given a
name by astronomers
because of the way
they look in the sky
together

eclipse

an event that happens when the view of one object in the sky is blocked by another object or by the Earth's shadow

galaxy

a group of stars,
gas and dust held
together by
gravity

light year

the distance a ray
of light travels in
one year (about 6
trillion miles)

lunar

anything relating
to the moon

meteor

sometimes called a
"shooting star"; can
be seen when a
particle of dust from
space comes into the
Earth's atmosphere

meteorite

an object, such as
a rock, that falls
from outer space
and lands on the
Earth's surface

Milky Way

the galaxy that contains our solar system; the name comes from how it looks in the night sky, where individual stars can't be seen and it appears as a glowing trail in the sky

moon

Earth's only
natural satellite
(a celestial or
natural body that
orbits another)

nebula

a cloud of gas and
dust in space

nova

a star that quickly
flares up in
brightness before
fading back to its
original state

orbit

the path that one
object in space
takes around
another object in
space

ozone

a layer in the Earth's
upper atmosphere
that keeps damaging
ultraviolet light from
reaching the Earth's
surface

planet

a natural object in
space moving
around a star that
is big enough to
have its own gravity

revolve

to move in a circle
around another
object (ex: the
Moon revolves
around the Earth)

rotate

to spin
(ex: the Earth
rotates)

satellite

a small object in
space orbiting a
larger one

solar system

the system of
planets and other
objects orbiting
our Sun

star

a luminous sphere
that shines because
of the release of
energy produced at
its core;
the Sun is a star