

Vocabulary – Space

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