



Vocabulary - Copy the following definitions in your science notebook.

Sun - a star at the center of the solar system

star - a sphere of hot gases that gives off heat and light

constellation - a group of stars that make a pattern or picture in the sky

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

Milky Way - a spiral galaxy that contains our solar system

planet - a round space object in space that orbits the Sun and it does not give off its own light

moon - a natural satellite of a planet and it orbits around it

phase - the changing appearance of the shape of the moon

crater - a hollow area or pit in the ground

orbit - the path an object takes as it travels around another object

solar system - the Sun and all the objects that orbit around it. It includes planets, moons, meteoroids, asteroids, and comets.

rotation - the act of spinning around an axis

axis - an imaginary line that an object, such as a planet, spins around

revolution - one complete trip around an object. In our solar system the planets revolve around the Sun

comet - a chunk of ice, rock, frozen gas and dust that orbits the Sun

asteroids - chunks of rock or metal that orbit the Sun. Most are found in a band between Mars and Jupiter.

meteoroid - a piece of asteroid that has broken off in space

meteor - a meteoroid that enters the Earth's atmosphere. It causes a streak of light in the sky that is often called a "shooting star"

meteorite - a meteor that reaches Earth's surface

gravity - a force of attraction or pull between objects

