

Astronomy Glossary

WHO MADE THIS?

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ILLUSTRATIONS

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Astronomy Glossary



WORD	DEFINITION
ASTEROID	A small rocky object that orbits the Sun, most commonly found in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
COMET	An icy object that orbits the Sun and forms a glowing tail when it passes close to the Sun.
CONSTELLATION	A group of stars that form a recognizable pattern in the night sky.
COPERNICUS	A Renaissance astronomer who proposed that the planets orbit the Sun rather than the Earth.
CRATER	A bowl-shaped depression on a planet or moon caused by an impact from a meteor or asteroid.
ECLIPSE	An event that occurs when one celestial body moves into the shadow of another.
EXPLORATION	The study and investigation of space using telescopes, satellites, and spacecraft.
GALAXY	A vast system of stars, gas, and dust held together by gravity.
GALILEO	An Italian scientist who improved the telescope and made important discoveries about planets and moons.
GRAVITY	The force that attracts objects toward one another, keeping planets in orbit around stars.
JUPITER	The largest planet in our solar system, known for its Great Red Spot and many moons.
LIGHT-YEAR	The distance that light travels in one year, used to measure vast distances in space.
LUNAR	Relating to the Moon.
MARS	The fourth planet from the Sun, often called the Red Planet because of its reddish surface.
METEOR	A streak of light seen when a small space rock burns up in Earth's atmosphere.
MILKY WAY	The galaxy that contains our solar system.
MOON	A natural satellite that orbits a planet.
NEBULA	A giant cloud of gas and dust in space where stars are often formed.
ORBIT	The curved path an object follows as it travels around another object in space.
PLANET	A large celestial body that orbits a star and does not produce its own light.
RINGS	Bands of ice and rock particles that orbit some planets, such as Saturn.
SATELLITE	An object that orbits a planet, either natural like the Moon or artificial like a spacecraft.
SATURN	A large gas giant known for its spectacular ring system.
SOLAR SYSTEM	The Sun and all the planets, moons, asteroids, and other objects that orbit it.
SPACE STATION	A spacecraft designed for astronauts to live and work in orbit for extended periods.
STAR	A massive ball of hot gas that produces light and energy through nuclear fusion.
SUN	The star at the center of our solar system that provides light and heat to Earth.
TELESCOPE	An instrument used to observe distant objects in space.
UNIVERSE	All of space and everything in it, including galaxies, stars, planets, and matter.
VENUS	The second planet from the Sun, known for its thick clouds and extremely hot surface.