

## Earth and Space Science Vocabulary

### Astronomy E.5.8A

1. **Astronomy**: the study of the universe and celestial objects
  2. **Celestial**: positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy
  3. **Universe**: all space and the matter space contains
  4. **Satellite**: an object that orbits around another object, such as a planet
  5. **Asteroid belt**: group of many rock objects located between the planets of Mars and Jupiter
  6. **Meteoroid**: small rocky bodies that often crash into planets and moons
  7. **Comet**: lumps of ice, dust, and rock that orbit the Sun.; as it nears the Sun, ice and gas heat up and trail behind forming a tail.
  8. **Planet**: a celestial body moving in an elliptical (oval) orbit around a star
  9. **Composition**: the general makeup of something
  10. **Orbit**: a curved path followed by a satellite as it revolves around an object
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11. **Sun**: the star at the center of our solar system that supplies heat and light to Earth; its enormous gravity keeps the solar system in orbit
  12. **Star**: a ball of gas in space that produces its own light and heat
  13. **Constellation**: a grouping of stars seen as a figure or design
  14. **Star chart**: a map of the constellations
  15. **Solar System**: the Sun and all of the objects that move around it
  16. **Seasons**: the four natural divisions of the year based on changes in temperature due to the varied amounts of sunlight (both intensity and number of daylight hours received); caused by the tilt of Earth during its revolution
  17. **Navigation**: the process of determining your position
  18. **Exploration**: the process of traveling in and learning about an unfamiliar place
  19. **Telescope**: an optical instrument used to view distant stars
  20. **Compass**: a tool used to show magnetic north