

Earth and Space Science

Earth, Sun, and Moon Vocabulary

1. **Lunar Cycle** – the Moon's repeated pattern of changes in appearance due to its changing position relative to Earth and the Sun as it circles Earth
2. **Season** – the four natural divisions of the year based on changes in temperature due to varied amounts of sunlight (both the intensity and the number of daylight hours received); caused by the tilt of Earth during revolution
3. **Solstice** – points of farthest and closest distance of the Sun from Earth that correspond to the beginning of winter and summer
4. **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.)
5. **Earth** – the planet that all known life exists on
6. **Moon** – a natural satellite that orbits a planet; some planets have no moons and others have more than 60 moons
7. **Model** – a limited representation of something that can help us understand its structure or how it works
8. **Rotation** – a complete spin on an axis
9. **Revolution** – a complete turn or orbit around a center
10. **Tilt** – to not be straight up and down; Earth is slightly tilted on its axis
11. **Axis** – an imaginary line that a sphere rotates around
12. **Eclipse** – an obscuring of the light from a celestial body by the passage of an object between the celestial body and the observer or between the celestial body and its source of illumination
13. **Lunar Eclipse** – the full Moon passes into Earth's shadow causing the moon to appear reddish in color when the Sun, Earth, and Moon directly line up; lasts from 1-3 ½ hours
14. **Solar Eclipse** – the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, covering all or part of the Sun; occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon directly line up; lasts less than 12 minutes