

7th grade make up vocab.

Aphelion – in the orbit of a planet or other body in the solar system, the point that is farthest from the sun.

Asteroid – tiny chunks of rock of varying sizes that orbit the sun.

Autumnal equinox – first day of autumn (fall). (September 20 or 21).

Big Bang theory – states the universe was formed by the explosion of a small amount of very dense and hot matter.

Comet – object made of ice, gas and dust that orbits the sun.

Corona – outermost layer of the sun's atmosphere.

Cosmology – study of the origin, properties, processes, and evolution of the universe.

Day – time required for Earth to rotate once on its axis.

Doppler effect – apparent change in the wavelengths of light that occurs when an object is moving toward or away from the Earth.

Equator – imaginary line at 0° latitude that circles the Earth halfway between the north and south geographical poles and divides the Earth into two equal halves.

Equinox – occurs twice yearly when the sun appears to cross the celestial equator, with the result that day and night are the same.

Full moon – phase of the moon when the entire lighted side of the moon is visible.

Galaxy – large collection of stars, gases, and dust that are part of the universe bound together by gravitational forces.

Gravity – force of attraction between objects that is due to their masses.

Latitude – measure of distance in degrees north or south of the equator.

Light-year – distance light travels in one year. (about 9.46 trillion kilometers)

Low tide – lowest level of the ocean that occurs between the two high tides.

Mass – measure of the amount of matter in an object.

Milky Way – galaxy in which the Earth's solar system is.

Model – pattern, plan representation, or description designed to show the structure or workings of an object, system, or concept.

Month – division of the year that is based on the orbit of the moon around the Earth.

Moon – natural satellite that revolves around a planet.

Moon phase – fraction of the moon's disc that is illuminated as seen from Earth

Orbit – path one object takes when moving around another object in space.

Photosphere – lowest layer of the sun's atmosphere.

Planet – large, spherical body in space that orbits a star and does not produce light on its own.

Science – process of trying to understand the world around us; the knowledge obtained by observing natural events and conditions in order to discover facts and to formulate laws or principles that can be verified or tested.

Scientific method – basic steps that scientists follow in uncovering facts and in solving scientific problems; a plan of inquiry that uses scientific process skills as tools to gather, organize, analyze, and communicate information.

Solar eclipse – eclipse that occurs when the new moon comes directly between the sun and Earth.

Solar system – star/sun-planets and all the other objects that orbit it.

Spring tide – high tide that is higher than usual; occurs twice monthly at the new and full phases of the moon.

Summer solstice – time of year when the Northern Hemisphere has its longest day and the Southern Hemisphere has its shortest day . (June 20 or 21)

Sun – closest star to Earth and the center of our solar system.

Sunspot – solar storm that appears as dark patches on the sun's face because it is cooler than the surrounding regions and has a strong magnetic field.

Theory – set of ideas that explains related observations and is supported by a large body of evidence acquired through scientific investigation.

Umbra – inner area of a shadow cast by one object in space onto another object in space in which the light is completely blocked out.

Vernal equinox – first day of spring (March 20 or 21)

Waxing-crescent – phase of the moon between the new moon and one-half moon when the lighted area of the moon appears to grow larger.

Waxing-gibbous – phase of the moon between one-half and full when the lighted area of the moon appears to grow larger.

Winter solstice – time of year when the Northern Hemisphere has its shortest day and the Southern Hemisphere has its longest day. (December 21 or 22).

Year – time required for the Earth to orbit once around the sun.