

SOLAR SYSTEM GLOSSARY

Axis - a real or imaginary line on which something rotates.

Asteroid - a chunk of rock and metal in outer space that is in orbit around the Sun.

Constellation - a group of stars that make an imaginary shape in the night sky.

Orbit - the path one object takes as it revolves around another object in space.

Phase - the portion of the moon that we can see from Earth on any given night

Planet - a large body in outer space that circles around the sun or another star.

Revolution - to move in a circle around a fixed point. Earth revolves around the sun.

Rotation - to turn on or around a fixed point. Earth rotates on its axis.

Solar system - the sun and everything that orbits, or travels around, the sun.

Star - a ball of gas in space that makes its own light and heat.

Sun - the star at the center of our solar system.

Telescope - an instrument that makes distant objects appear larger.