



# ASTRONOMY WORD FIND

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



Q C R R K S M A B D R X S R T L E R A E  
 J T O R A E A L L E P O C F S U D A S T  
 T Q C N T E A T T U L L I E U N U T T I  
 E S U E S C Y S E A B H M R P A T S R R  
 N O O A K T U T R L S E Q P E R I N O O  
 A R X H S L E E H D L G N R R E N O N E  
 L O O C C A C L E G U I E U N C G R A T  
 P L W N W L R R L R I H T T O L A T U E  
 E Z E H I E R A R A P L I E V I M U T M  
 Z P L P I I S A D S T U B N A P R E P M  
 O B S R A T S E L B A I R A V S A N N C  
 D E V J E L E A C O D P O D F E L K O T  
 I Q U R U G I D G I P W Z N W T L M C N  
 A E I P X T G G W R T M D I O R E T S A  
 C S C D S P E M P A A P U Q Z T T G K I  
 M E T E O R O I D A R V I C Y Q S A H G  
 S O L A R S Y S T E M F I L R H S L X D  
 T E N A L P O X E Y Y E T T C I C A Y E  
 C R O T A T I O N T I B R O Y E C X B R  
 G L O B U L A R C L U S T E R M W Y Y J



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|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| asterism         | gravity       | quasar            |
| asteroid         | light year    | red giant         |
| astronaut        | lunar eclipse | red shift         |
| black hole       | meteor        | rotation          |
| celestial sphere | meteorite     | satellite         |
| circumpolar      | meteoroid     | solar eclipse     |
| comet            | nebula        | solar system      |
| constellation    | neutron star  | stellar magnitude |
| ecliptic         | open cluster  | supernova         |
| exoplanet        | orbit         | variable star     |
| galaxy           | planet        | white dwarf       |
| globular cluster | pulsar        | zodiac            |

see page 12 for word find definitions



# ASTRONOMY VOCABULARY

**Asterism**—Easily recognized pattern of stars, from one or more constellations.

**Asteroid**—Small, rocky object in the Solar System, not a satellite of a planet; most asteroids are located in the Asteroid Belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

**Astronaut**—Space traveller.

**Black Hole**—Enormously dense object with gravity so great that nothing can escape, including light; formed from the collapse of a super-massive star.

**Celestial Sphere**—System of mapping the space around the Earth; an imaginary sphere surrounding Earth.

**Circumpolar**—Circling the pole star (Polaris).

**Comet**—Chunk of dirty, dark ice mixed with dust, rocks, and gases which revolves around the Sun in an elliptical orbit; emits volatiles (gases) in a long “tail” as it nears the Sun and heats up.

**Constellation**—Defined area of the sky containing a star pattern, agreed upon by the scientific community.

**Ecliptic**—The Sun’s apparent annual path across the celestial sphere as observed from Earth; same path is also approximately followed by the moon and planets.

**Exoplanet**—Planet orbiting a star other than the Sun; hundreds have been discovered in the last decade.

**Galaxy**—Huge group of stars, gas, and dust that may contain millions to hundreds of billions of stars held together by gravity.

**Globular Cluster**—Immense sphere-shaped, relatively compact, gravity-linked group of hundreds of thousands or even millions of stars; looks like a fuzzy patch in the night sky.

**Gravity**—The force of attraction that pulls a smaller object toward a more massive object.

**Light Year**—The distance light travels in a year, 9.6 trillion km.

**Lunar Eclipse**—The Moon moves into Earth’s shadow as Earth passes between Sun and Moon.

**Meteor**—Bright streak of light seen as a meteoroid burns up entering the Earth’s atmosphere (moving up to 50 km/sec!).

**Meteorite**—Meteoroids that do not burn up completely and land on Earth.

**Meteoroid**—Small rocky and/or metallic fragment orbiting the Sun - varying in size from a grain of sand to less than a kilometer across.

**Nebula**—Vast cloud of gas and dust in space where new stars may form.

**Neutron Star**—Small, dense star resulting from the collapse of a super-giant star.

**Open Cluster**—Irregular-shaped star group consisting of a few dozen to several thousand relatively young stars bound by gravity.

**Orbit**—The path of one object as it revolves around another.

**Planet**—Large spherical object that revolves around a star and dominates its orbital path.

**Pulsar**—Rotating neutron star that gives off short, sharp pulses of radio waves.

**Quasar**—Most luminous object in the universe powered by supermassive black holes; radiation is emitted into space as material falls into a black hole, usually at the center of a galaxy - this is referred to as an AGN - Active Galactic Nucleus; extremely far away.

**Red Giant**—Type of star that has a relatively low temperature and is many times larger than the Sun; forms as a star uses up fuel.

**Red Shift**—The measurable change in the wavelength of light as an object in space moves away from our point of view.

**Rotation**—The spinning of an object on its axis.

**Satellite**—An object orbiting around another object held by gravity.

**Solar Eclipse**—Total or partial blocking of the Sun by the Moon; the Moon passes between Sun and Earth.

**Solar System**—The Sun and everything that orbits it.

**Stellar Magnitude**—The brightness of a star or other heavenly body.

**Supernova**—Explosive death of a massive star (at least 8 times the mass of the Sun); expels elements into space.

**Variable Star**—A type of star whose brightness changes over time, usually in a predictable way.

**White Dwarf**—Small hot star no longer producing nuclear fusion.

**Zodiac**—The thirteen constellations along the ecliptic through which the Sun and planets appear to travel during the course of a year.

**Visit these sites for more astronomy vocabulary builders!**

[www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/space/definitions.html](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/space/definitions.html) or [www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-glossary.html#Q](http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-glossary.html#Q)