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asteroid
A rock that orbits the Sun.

astronaut
A person who is trained to travel into space.

astronomer
A person who makes observations about and studies the stars, planets and space.

axis
The imaginary, straight line on which a planet rotates.

comet
A small, frozen mass of dust and gas orbiting the Sun.

crater
A huge hole formed by the impact of a meteorite or other space objects.

free fall
Any object that moves under the force of gravity only.

gravity
The force by which an object with a large mass, such as a planet, pulls objects toward its centre. The force of gravity keeps all of the planets in the Solar System in orbit around the Sun.

jovian planet
Planets made primarily of gas. Also known as gas and/or ice giants. Jovian planets in our Solar System include Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

lunar
Relating to the Moon, for example, lunar landscape or lunar landing.

meteoroid
A rock that orbits the Sun. Smaller than asteroids.

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moon
Natural satellites which orbit a planet. The Earth has one moon whereas other planets have numerous.

NASA
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA is America's space agency responsible for space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research.

observatory
A place where observations about space are made.

orbit
A curved, invisible path that a planet takes around a star such as the Sun.

orrery
A model of the Solar System that shows the position and movement of the planets.

planet
A spherical mass of solids and gases which spin and orbit the Sun. There are eight planets in our Solar System.

planetarium
A purpose-built, domed building or tent in which images of stars, planets and constellations are projected for educational purposes or entertainment.

rocket
A jet engine that launches a spacecraft into space.

rover
A space exploration vehicle designed to move across the surface of a planet, moon or asteroid.

satellite
A man-made machine that orbits a body in space and sends signals to and from Earth.

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Sir Isaac Newton

An English scientist, mathematician and astronomer whose discoveries changed the way we think about the Universe. He is best-known for defining the three laws of motion and universal gravitation.

solar system

A system of planets and other objects that orbit a sun.

star

A huge, bright ball of burning gas that is held together by gravity. The Sun is the closest star to Earth.

telescope

A device designed to magnify objects that are in the distance.

terrestrial planet

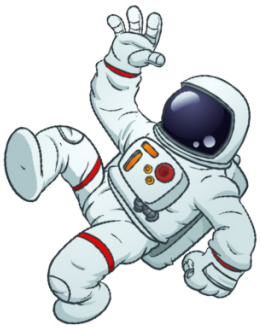
Planets made primarily of rock and metal. Terrestrial planets in our Solar System include Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

universe

All of space and everything in it including stars, planets and galaxies.

zero gravity

The feeling of weightlessness.



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