

UNIT 5 (SPACE) VOCABULARY

SOLAR SYSTEM- THE SUN ALONG WITH THE PLANETS, MOONS AND OTHER SMALL CELESTIAL BODIES THAT ORBIT AROUND IT. A SOLAR SYSTEM COULD ALSO BE A SIMILAR SYSTEM AROUND ANOTHER STAR IN PLACE OF THE SUN.

ROTATION- THE CIRCULAR MOVEMENT OF AN OBJECT AROUND ITS CENTER AXIS.

AXIS OF ROTATION- AN IMAGINARY LINE PASSING THROUGH AN OBJECT THAT IT ROTATES AROUND. (EX. EARTH'S AXIS OF ROTATION PASSES THROUGH THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES)

TILT- THE ANGLE AT WHICH AN OBJECT IS POSITIONED COMPARED TO IT'S CENTER AXIS. (EX. THE EARTH TILTS AT A 23.5 DEGREE ANGLE)

REVOLUTION/ORBIT- A CIRCULAR PATH A CELESTIAL BODY (PLANET, MOON, ETC.) TAKES AROUND ANOTHER. (EX. THE EARTH MAKES ONE FULL REVOLUTION AROUND THE SUN EACH YEAR)

MOON PHASE- THE SHAPE OF THE ILLUMINATED SIDE OF THE MOON AS SEEN ON EARTH.

SOLAR ECLIPSE- OCCURS WHEN THE MOON PASSES BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE SUN. THE SUN APPEARS TO BE FULLY OR PARTIALLY "BLOCKED" BY THE MOON.

LUNAR ECLIPSE- OCCURS WHEN THE EARTH PASSES BETWEEN THE SUN AND THE MOON.

SOLSTICE- OCCURS DURING THE WINTER AND SUMMER, WHEN THE SUN REACHES THE HIGHEST (SUMMER) AND LOWEST (WINTER) POINTS IN THE SKY AT NOON; CAUSES THE LONGEST (SUMMER) AND SHORTEST (WINTER) DAYS OF THE YEAR.

EQUINOX- OCCURS DURING THE SPRING AND FALL, WHEN DAY AND NIGHT ARE APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME.

TIDES - THE DAILY RISING AND FALLING OF THE SEA LEVEL DUE TO THE LOCATION OF THE SUN, EARTH, AND MOON SYSTEM (THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF TIDES: NEAP, SPRING, LOW, HIGH)

ASTRONOMICAL UNIT (AU) - THE MEAN DISTANCE FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH TO THE CENTER OF THE SUN; THIS MEASUREMENT IS USED TO DESCRIBE DISTANCES IN SPACE

GRAVITY - THE FORCE THAT ATTRACTS A BODY TOWARDS THE CENTER OF EARTH

TERRESTRIAL PLANETS - SMALLER, ROCKY PLANETS WITH HARD SURFACES MADE OF ROCKS AND METALS

GAS GIANT/JOVIAN PLANETS - LARGER PLANETS MADE OUT OF GASES; NO SOLID SURFACES

HABITABLE - SUITABLE OR GOOD ENOUGH TO LIVE IN/ON

INHABITABLE- NOT SUITABLE TO SUSTAIN LIFE

ATMOSPHERE - LAYER OF GASES SURROUNDING A PLANET

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS) - A LARGE SPACECRAFT IN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH THAT HOUSES ASTRONAUTS AND COSMONAUTS TO LIVE AND CONDUCT SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

SPINOFF - A PRODUCT/TECHNOLOGY THAT DEVELOPS FROM ANOTHER PRODUCT/TECHNOLOGY

PROBE - AN UNMANNED EXPLORATORY SPACECRAFT THAT SENDS INFORMATION ABOUT ITS ENVIRONMENT BACK TO EARTH

SATELLITE - A MAN-MADE OR NATURAL OBJECT (LIKE A MOON) THAT ORBITS EARTH OR ANOTHER PLANET