

**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.

**moon**

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

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**NASA**

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

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**observatory**

A place where observations about space are made.

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**orbit**

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

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**orrery**

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

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**planet**

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

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**planetarium**

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

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**rocket**

A jet engine that launches a spacecraft into space.

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**rover**

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

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**satellite**

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

## **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.

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## **solar system**

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

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## **star**

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

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## **telescope**

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

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## **terrestrial planet**

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

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## **universe**

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

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## **zero gravity**

The feeling of weightlessness.

