

Nova’s Stellar Space Vocabulary Mat

Learning objective: To define and understand key astronomical terminology regarding the Earth, Moon, and Sun.

Key Vocabulary

Explore these essential space terms, categorised by Nova the owl to help you master the movements and composition of our solar system.

Orbit The curved path an object takes as it t...	Rotate To spin around a central point or axis.	Axis An imaginary line passing through the ...
Spherical The three-dimensional shape of a...	Solar System The collection of planets and ...	Geocentric An outdated model suggesting t...
Heliocentric The scientific model where pla...	Lunar Cycle The changing appearance of th...	Gravity The invisible force that pulls objects ...
Celestial Body A natural object located outs...	Axis Tilt The angle at which a planet sits on i...	Star A luminous sphere of plasma held toget...
Planet A large celestial body that orbits a sta...	Satellite A body that orbits a planet; this can...	Eclipse An event where one celestial body ...
Explain why the ...	Compare and con...	Justify your ans... If the Earth's axis was no...
What might happ...	Evaluate the imp...	Design a mnemon...