

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

- corona** the low-density cloud of gases surrounding the sun
- craters** holes or bowl-shaped depressions on a moon or planet
- ebb tide** the movement of a tidal current away from the shore
- elliptical** oval-shaped
- equinox** either of the two times of the year when the number of hours of daylight and darkness are the same in both hemispheres; marks the first day of spring and fall; means *equal night*
- flood tide** the tidal current associated with the increase in the height of the tide
- highland areas** areas on the moon which are high mountain ranges and large craters; appear light in color
- lunar eclipse** an event which occurs when Earth blocks the light as it moves between the sun and the moon
- lunar month** the measure of time it takes for the moon to pass from one new moon to the next (29½ days)

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- maria** (MAR-ee-uh)..... lunar seas or plains on the moon which appear dark
- meteors** fragments of rocky material from space that burn as they fall through Earth's atmosphere; also known as meteoroids
- moon phase** the changing appearance of the moon which depends on the moon's position relative to the sun
- neap tide** tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon when the sun, Earth, and moon form a right angle; produces tides in a medium range
- orbit** (noun) the path of an object revolving around another object; (verb) to revolve in an orbit around another object
- partial eclipse** an event which occurs when part of the sun is blocked out by the moon
- penumbra** part of a shadow cast by an object in which light from the source is only partly blocked
- revolve** to move around another heavenly body
Examples: the moon revolves around Earth; planets revolve around the sun
- rotate** to spin on an axis
Example: Earth rotates, causing day and night

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- seasons** the four divisions of the year characterized by differences in weather and the number of hours of daylight
- solar eclipse** an event which occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun
- solstice** either of the two times a year when the sun is at its greatest apparent distance north or south of the equator; marks the first day of *summer* and *winter*
- spring tide** tide that occurs when the sun, moon, and Earth are in a straight line
- tide** the rise and fall of the oceans caused by the gravitational attraction between the sun, Earth, and moon
- total eclipse** an event which occurs when the sun is completely blocked out by the moon
- umbra** the part of a shadow cast by an object in which light from the source is completely blocked