

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

artificial human-made

astronaut a person who flies in a rocket or space shuttle

astronomer one who studies astronomy or makes observations of celestial phenomena

astronomy the science of celestial bodies and their properties

communications satellite a satellite that receives, amplifies, and relays signals

cosmic ray ray of very short wavelength and great power that hits Earth from beyond its atmosphere

detector device for indicating the presence of a certain substance

geocentric Earth-centered

heliocentric sun-centered

lunar of or relating to the moon; designed for use on the moon

Vocabulary

NASA the abbreviation for the National
Aeronautics and Space Administration

orbiter a spacecraft designed to orbit a celestial
body without landing on its surface

payload the load carried by a spacecraft

satellite an object that revolves around a larger
object

solar system the sun and all the planets, their moons,
asteroids, meteors, and comets; all
objects that move around the sun

space probes rocket-launched vehicles that carry
instruments, cameras, and other
data-gathering equipment for deep-
space measurements

space shuttle a reusable spacecraft that carries
astronauts into space and returns them
to Earth

space stations living quarters in space, equipped with
all the necessary instruments to work
and live

telecommunication communication over a distance

telescope instrument for making distant objects
appear larger and therefore nearer; may
use lenses, mirrors, or an antenna

Vocabulary

- transmitter** instrument that sends signals from one place to another
- transponders** devices used on satellites for receiving, amplifying, and re-broadcasting signals to the Earth
- universe** all bodies in space and all space between these bodies—all matter and all energy
- weather satellites** satellites that continuously monitor weather conditions