

Lesson 6-3-3 Vocabulary

- **Asteroid-** a small, rocky object that orbits the sun; most asteroids are located in a band between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
- **Comet-** a small body of rock, ice, and cosmic dust that follows an elliptical orbit around the sun and that gives off gas and dust in the form of a tail as it passes close to the sun.
- **Oort Cloud-** a spherical region that surrounds the solar system, that extends from just beyond Pluto's orbit to almost halfway to the nearest star, and that contains billions of comets.
- **Kuiper Belt-** the flat region beyond Neptune's orbit that extends about twice as far as Neptune's orbit which contains leftover planetesimals, and that is the source of many short-period comets.
- **Meteoroid-** a relatively small, rocky body that travels through space.
- **Meteor-** a bright streak of light that results when a meteoroid burns up in Earth's atmosphere.