

# Vocabulary

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

- 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