**Earth and Space Science Vocabulary**

**Astronomy E.5.8A**

1. **Astronomy**: the study of the universe and celestial objects

2. **Celestial:** positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy

3. **Universe**: all space and the matter space contains

4. **Satellite:**  an object that orbits around another object, such as a planet

5. **Asteroid belt:**  group of many rock objects located between the planets of Mars and Jupiter

6. **Meteoroid:** small rocky bodies that often crash into planets and moons

7. **Comet:** lumps of ice, dust, and [rock](https://www.ducksters.com/science/rocks.php) that orbit the Sun.; as it nears the Sun, ice and gas heat up and trail behind forming a tail.

8. **Planet:** a celestial body moving in an elliptical (oval) orbit around a star

9. **Composition**: the general makeup of something

10. **Orbit:** a curved path followed by a satellite as it revolves around an object

11. **Sun:** the star at the center of our solar system that supplies heat and light to Earth; its enormous gravity keeps the solar system in orbit

12. **Star:** a ball of gas in space that produces its own light and heat

13. **Constellation**: a grouping of stars seen as a figure or design

14. **Star chart**: a map of the constellations

15. **Solar System:** the Sun and all of the objects that move around it

16. **Seasons**: the four natural divisions of the year based on changes in temperature due to the varied amounts of sunlight (both intensity and number of daylight hours received); caused by the tilt of Earth during its revolution

17. **Navigation**: the process of determining your position

18. **Exploration**: the process of traveling in and learning about an unfamiliar place

19. **Telescope**: an optical instrument used to view distant stars

20. **Compass**: a tool used to show magnetic north