

Key Science Vocabulary ~ #8

- **Asteroid** ~ a piece of rock or metal made up of material similar to that which formed the planets.
- **Astronomical unit** ~ a distance within the solar system.
- **Black Hole** ~ a region from a collapsed supernova where the gravity is so strong that nothing can escape from it, not even light.
- **Comet** ~ an object made of dust and rock mixed with ice, methane, and ammonia which is further away from the sun than an asteroid.
- **Eclipse** ~ an event experienced on Earth caused by the relative positions of Earth, the Moon, and the Sun.
- **Gas Giant** ~ a planet that is larger, less dense, and more gaseous than the terrestrial planets.
- **Light Year** ~ the distance light travels in one year, which is equal to about 9.5 trillion km.
- **Lunar Eclipse** ~ an event that occurs when Earth is between the Sun and the Moon and casts a shadow on the Moon.
- **Nebula** ~ a cloud of interstellar gas and dust.
- **Neutron Star** ~ a star approximately 20 km in diameter with a dense core where only neutrons exist.
- **Red Giant** ~ an extremely large star with low surface gravity, which causes the star to lose gases from its outer layers.
- **Solar eclipse** ~ an event experienced on Earth when the Moon passes between the Sun and earth and casts a shadow on Earth.
- **Supernova** ~ a burst of energy caused by an explosion in the core of a supergiant.
- **Supergiant** ~ a star with a mass of about five solar masses.
- **White Dwarf** ~ a small, hot object about the size of Earth that evolved when a red giant lost its energy