



The Starry Messenger

Vocabulary List

Angular Diameter - the apparent size of celestial objects measured by angle in degrees.

Apogee - that point in the orbit of the moon or a planet which is most distant from the earth.

Aristotle - one of the world's greatest thinkers and scientific investigators from ancient Greece.

Astronomy - one of the oldest sciences dealing with the study of heavenly bodies.

Celestial objects - planets, moons, stars galaxies and all other heavenly bodies.

Constellation - a group of fixed stars often described as forming an imaginary picture.

Copernicus - a Polish mathematician and astronomer who proposed the Earth and planets move around the Sun.

Cosmology - the theory of the nature of the Universe.

Earthshine - light from the Sun reflected by the Earth that illuminates the moon.

Fixed Stars - those stars and other heavenly bodies that maintain fixed patterns in the sky.

Hypothesis - an unproved theory tentatively accepted to explain certain facts.

Magnification - the apparent increase in size of an object viewed with a lens.

Magnitude - the degree of brightness of a star.

Mathematician - a scientist who deals with quantities and forms using numbers.

Milky Way - a broad band of light across the heavens made up of stars and nebulae, our galaxy.

Observation - the recording of facts for scientific study.

Opposition - the situation where two heavenly bodies are at their greatest separation.

Parallax - the apparent change in position of an object resulting from a change in the viewers position.

Perigee - that point in the orbit of the moon or a planet nearest the Earth.

Philosopher - a person who studies the processes governing the conduct and principles that regulate the Universe.

Physicist - a scientist who deals with the properties, changes and interactions of matter and energy.

Planets - a heavenly body that revolves about a star, once called wandering stars.

Ptolemy - an ancient Greek mathematician and astronomer who founded a system of the Universe with the Earth at it's center and all the heavenly bodies revolving around it.

Pythagoras - an ancient Greek philosopher who was responsible for many theories on the workings of the Universe.

Refraction - the bending of light as it moves from one medium into another.

Satellite - a small planet or object revolving around a larger one.

Sidereal - relating to the stars or constellations.

Spectacle - a lens used to assist vision.

Sunspots - dark spots sometimes visible on the surface of the Sun.

Terminator - the dividing line between the illuminated and non-illuminated part of a planet or moon.

Wandering Stars - heavenly bodies that appear to move against the background of fixed stars, a planet.