

# Deep Space Glossary A-B

Absorb	to take in or soak up by chemical or physical action
Asteroid	a small, rocky body which orbits a star (e.g. our Sun)
Astronaut	a person trained to travel in a spacecraft
Astronomer	an expert in astronomy
Astronomy	the branch of science which studies celestial objects, space and the Universe as a whole
Atmosphere	the envelope of gases surrounding Earth (or another planet)
Atmospheric	relating to the atmosphere of Earth (or another planet)
Black hole	a celestial body that is so dense and massive that nothing – not even light – can escape its gravitational pull

# Deep Space Glossary B-D

Blueprint	a detailed outline or plan
Calibrate	to correlate the readings (of an instrument) with those of a standard, in order to check the instrument's accuracy
Celestial	positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space, as observed in astronomy
Comet	a celestial body which moves around the Sun, made of a nucleus of ice and dust and – when near the Sun – a tail of gas and dust particles
Commands	a set of specific orders or instructions designed to achieve a particular outcome
Construct	to build or make
Dark matter	the invisible material making up $\approx 80\%$ of all matter in our Universe (when combined with dark energy), which scientists believe exists because of the way gravity works on matter we can see
Data	facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis

# Deep Space Glossary D-E

Decode	to convert a coded message into intelligible language
Deloy	bring into effective action; to make something ready for use
Discovery	the action or process of discovering; the process of finding information, especially for the first time
Encryption	the process of converting information or data into a code, especially to prevent unauthorised access
Engineer	a person who designs, builds, maintains or controls things (e.g. structures, machinery) and/or systems (e.g. software, electrics)
ESA	acronym for the European Space Agency – an intergovernmental organisation of European members dedicated to exploring space
Exoplanet	a planet which orbits a star other than our Sun i.e. a planet in another solar system
Experiment	a scientific procedure undertaken to make a discovery, test a hypothesis or demonstrate a known fact

# Deep Space Glossary G-L

Galaxy	a collection of gas, dust and millions or billions of stars, held together by mutual gravity
Gradient	a slope; the degree to which something (e.g. a line or surface) slopes above or below a horizontal plane; an increase or decrease in the magnitude of something (temperature, brightness)
Infographic	a visual representation of information or data – e.g. as a chart or diagram
Infrared	light beyond the red end of the visible spectrum, which can't be seen but can be felt as heat
Instrument	a tool or implement, especially one for precision work
IR	the acronym for infrared
ISS	acronym for the International Space Station – a large spacecraft orbiting Earth, on which astronauts live and conduct scientific experiments
Lens	a piece of glass or transparent material with one or two curved sides which concentrates or disperses light

# Deep Space Glossary L-P

Light	that which stimulates sight and makes things visible
Mirror	a surface, typically glass-coated with a metal amalgam, which reflects an image
Method	a particular procedure for accomplishing something
Moon	a celestial body orbiting a planet or asteroid
Nebula	a giant cloud of dust and gas in space
Optical	relating to sight, especially in relation to the action of light; falling in the part of the spectrum which the human eye can see.
Orbit	the curved path one celestial object or spacecraft takes around another celestial object
Payload	the items to be transported in a vehicle, including rockets that are sent to space

# Deep Space Glossary P-S

Planet	a spherical, celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit around a star
Prism	a glass or other transparent object in the form of a prism that separates white light into a spectrum
Program	a set of related activities with a particular long-term goal; to provide (a computer or other machine) with coded instructions for the automatic performance of a task
Protostar	a baby star – a contracting mass of gas which represents the early stage of a star’s formation
Reflect	to bounce light without absorbing it
Sequence	a particular order in which related things follow each other; to arrange in a particular order
Solar system	a system of celestial bodies orbiting a star
Space observation	studying celestial bodies and the Universe, often with the assistance of telescopes and satellites

# Deep Space Glossary S-U

Spectra	the plural of spectrum
Spectroscopy	the scientific technique of splitting light into the spectrum
Spectrum	the separation of light according to wavelength, part of which can be seen by human eyes as a band of colours
Star	a huge ball of gas held together by gravity, which appears as a luminous point in the sky at night
Structure	a building or object made from several parts; the arrangement of different parts or elements of something complex
Sun	the star that is at the centre of our Solar System
Telescope	an optical instrument which collects light from celestial objects and allows us to see things we can't when using just our eyes
Ultraviolet	the invisible light which sits beyond the violet end of the visible spectrum

# Deep Space Glossary U-Z

Universe	all of space, matter and energy, described as a whole
UV	acronym for ultraviolet

 Add your own words and definitions here!