

# Space Words: Matching Game

- Photocopy these sheets onto light card.
- Use them to play a 'memory matching game' (matching the word to its meaning), or use the definitions as the basis for a quiz.
- Alternatively, the cards could be used to start a class dictionary of space words.
- The final page is blank, for students to create their own space words with definitions.

asteroid	a large piece of rock or metal (mostly iron) that orbits the Sun
comet	a small, icy body in the solar system that has a long, oval orbit
constellation	a group of stars in the sky that forms an imaginary pattern or picture
crescent moon	the phase when less than half of the Moon's 'face' is visible
elliptical	having a shape like an oval



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galaxy	a very large collection of stars, dust and gas held together by gravity
gravity	a force of attraction between any two masses; its strength depends on the size of each mass and the distance that lies between them
irregular	not having any pattern
lunar eclipse	when Earth's shadow falls on the Moon, blocking our view of it
meteor	a small piece of rock or metal that orbits the Sun
Milky Way	a broad, fuzzy band of light that arches across the night sky from one horizon to the other; the galaxy in which our solar system is located



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solar eclipse	when the Moon blocks out the light from the Sun
star	a glowing body of hot gases in space, held together by gravity
Sun	the star closest to Earth
universe	everything in outer space, including the solar system and Earth
protostar	the early stage in the evolution of a star
rill	a long and narrow valley observed on the surface of the Moon



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nebula	a great cloud of dust and gases within a galaxy
new moon	the phase when the Moon cannot be seen from Earth
night sky	all the stars and space objects we can see from Earth at night
nuclear fusion	an atomic reaction that fuels the formation of stars
orbit	the path an object travels as it revolves around another object
outer space	everything that exists beyond Earth's atmosphere



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supernova	groups of stars visible in the night sky
revolution	the motion of an object around an external point (eg the Sun around the Moon)
rotation	the spinning of a body on its own axis
axis	an imaginary line through the centre of a planet or satellite around which it rotates
biosphere	the part of Earth's crust, oceans and atmosphere where organisms exist
satellite	a small body in space that orbits around a larger one



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