

## THE SOLAR SYSTEM – WORD LIST

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- **active** = here: it can erupt or explode at any time
- **aim** = a plan ; what you want to do
- **amount** = quantity
- **ancient** = old
- **appear** = show; to be seen
- **approach** = move towards
- **asteroid** = one of the many small planets that move around the sun, especially between Mars and Jupiter
- **astronomer** = a person who studies the stars and the sky
- **atmosphere** = the gases around a planet
- **average** = normal, usual
- **axis** = the line around which an object turns or spins
- **billion** = a thousand million
- **blast** = to break into pieces
- **blazing** = fiery
- **breathe** = to take in air into your lungs from your nose or mouth
- **brightness** = light, shining
- **by accident** = not planned
- **calculate** = to find out how long something will take
- **cancer** = very serious disease in which cells in your body start to grow in an uncontrolled way
- **canyon** = mountain valley that has very steep slopes
- **capture** = here: to pull towards
- **carbon** = a chemical that is in coal ; it exists in pure form in diamonds
- **carbon dioxide** = the gas that is produced when animals or people breathe out
- **century** = a hundred years
- **close-up** = pictures taken from very near
- **cloud** = a white or grey object in the sky that has very small drops of water in it
- **collapse** = to fall in
- **collision** = crash
- **compared** = to see how two or more objects are like or not like each other
- **compass** = an instrument that shows where directions are; its needle always points north
- **completely** = entirely, all together
- **consist of** = made up of
- **constantly** = always
- **continue** = go on
- **convert** = change
- **core** = inner part, the centre of a planet
- **cover** = spread over
- **crush** = to press something so hard that it breaks
- **currently** = right now
- **dark side** = the side that we cannot see
- **data** = information
- **degree** = unit for measuring the temperature
- **dense** = heavy, thick
- **depend on** = here : need
- **depend on** = to be affected by
- **destroy** = kill, damage, ruin
- **develop** = create, grow, form
- **diameter** = a line from one end of a circle to the other
- **disappear** = go away so that you cannot see it again
- **discover** = to find something for the first time
- **distance** = space between two places
- **dot** = points, marks
- **dust** = very small particles of dirt
- **eclipse** = when the moon is between the Earth and the Sun
- **effect** = result ; to change something
- **elliptical** = like a circle but with two longer sides
- **enormous** = very, very big
- **equator** = a line around the middle of the Earth
- **eruption** = explosion
- **examine** = to take a close look at and study
- **extend** = reach
- **face** = look towards

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- **feature** = characteristic
- **fit** = go into
- **flat** = even, without any hills or mountains
- **fling-flung** = fly, move
- **float** = drift, come up
- **fragment** = small pieces of something that have broken off an objects
- **freeze** = to change from water to ice
- **galaxy** = there are millions of stars and planets that form a galaxy - the Milky Way is our galaxy
- **goddess** = a female god
- **gravity** = the power that pulls you down to the surface of a planet
- **greenhouse effect** = sunlight gets into the atmosphere and when it reaches the surface it turns into heat. But the heat cannot get out, so it becomes warmer and warmer.
- **heavy** = how much something weighs
- **helium** = a gas that is lighter than air and is used to make balloons float
- **high tide** = when the sea reaches its highest level
- **huge** = very, very big
- **hydrocarbon** = chemical that consists of hydrogen and carbon
- **hydrogen** = the lightest of all gases; colourless; it forms water if you join it with oxygen
- **icy** = frozen, very cold and covered with ice
- **impact** = when an object crashes into another one
- **interfere** = mix up
- **invisible** = you cannot see it
- **iron** = hard metal used to make steel
- **join** = bring together
- **knowledge** = the facts we know about something
- **launch** = start ; to send to space
- **lava** = the material that comes out of volcanoes. Sometimes it flows very slowly.
- **layer** = cover
- **level** = the height of something
- **light year** = the distance that light travels in one year = about 9,500,000,000,000 km
- **liquid** = fluid, watery
- **low tide** = when the sea reaches its lowest level
- **lunar** = about the moon
- **magnetic field** = the area around the Earth that has magnetic power
- **Martian** = from Mars
- **measure** = to find the size or length of something
- **melt** = if you make a hard object hot it can turn into liquid or when ice turns to water
- **methane** = a gas that you cannot see or smell; when you burn it it gives off heat
- **moderate** = not too hot and not too cold
- **NASA** = America's space agency
- **needle** = a small thin piece of metal
- **nitrogen** = a gas that has no colour and no smell; it forms most of the Earth's atmosphere
- **not likely** = it probably won't happen
- **nuclear fusion** = the centre of hydrogen atoms join together and produce energy
- **nucleus** = the centre of an atom
- **observer** = person who looks at or watches something
- **off course** = away from its normal path
- **on average** = normally
- **orbit** = to go around an object
- **organic** = material that comes from something living
- **originate** = come from
- **oxygen** = gas that is in the air and that we need to breathe
- **particle** = very small pieces of something
- **path** = track, route
- **pitch black** = very dark; with absolutely no light
- **point** = look at, show to
- **point towards** = to look in the direction of

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- **poisonous** = something in the air that is dangerous and can kill you
- **polar ice caps** = the ice that forms near the poles of a planet
- **power** = to give energy to
- **pressure** = the weight of an object on the surface
- **probably** = likely
- **probe** = an unmanned spaceship that is sent to another planet to collect information
- **protection** = something that protects and defends us
- **prove** = to show that something is true
- **provide** = give
- **radiation** = the heat, light or other energy given out by something
- **range** = reach from ... to ....
- **ray** = line of light
- **record** = to write down information
- **reddish** = red
- **reflect** = shine back
- **revolve** = rotate, go around
- **rocky** = not smooth; rough; not flat
- **rotate** = to go around
- **rotation** = one complete turn around an object
- **satellite** = an object that moves around a planet
- **scatter** = spread
- **scientist** = a person who is trained in science
- **season** = time of year
- **separate** = single
- **set foot on** = to put your foot on
- **shoot back** = move or fly back
- **single** = only one
- **sink-sank** = to go down slowly
- **size** = how big something is
- **smooth** = without any rocky parts
- **solar** = everything that has to do with the sun
- **solar flare** = a large explosion of the sun's atmosphere that produces a lot of energy
- **spacecraft** = spaceship
- **speed** = how fast something is
- **sphere** = form of a ball
- **spin** = rotate, to go around
- **spot** = place, area
- **stir** = to make dust or other small particles move around
- **straight** = directly
- **stretch** = to go from one place to another
- **stripes** = lines of different colors
- **sulphur** = a yellow chemical substance that burns and smells bad
- **surface** = the hard top part of a planet
- **surrounding** = what is around an object
- **survive** = to continue to exist
- **sweep** = move very quickly
- **tail** = the back part of an object
- **telescope** = an instrument that makes small, faraway objects look bigger
- **terrestrial** = Earth-like, on Earth
- **tide** = when the sea level rises and falls
- **tiny** = very small
- **trap** = it cannot escape
- **tremendous** = very big
- **twin** = two things that look the same
- **ultraviolet ray** = the light that makes your skin darker
- **underneath** = below
- **unlivable** = you cannot live on it
- **unmanned spacecraft** = spaceship without people on board
- **unusual** = strange, not normal
- **vehicle** = an object with four wheels, like a car
- **visible** = something that you can see
- **volume** = mass
- **water vapour** = water in the form of small drops in the air
- **weigh** = how heavy you are
- **wide** = broad – not narrow