



Astronomy *Space* Unit Study Guide



My unit test will be on: _____

The questions below provide a guide for focusing your studying. You should be familiar with all the topics we covered (see your notes and work) and the vocabulary you studied during this unit. The unit test will consist of matching definitions to vocabulary, short answer, and multiple choice questions.

1. List all of the astronomical phenomena that we learned about in this unit.

Seasons, changes in daylight (length of day and night), solstices and equinoxes, phases of the Moon, solar eclipses, lunar eclipses, auroras.

2. Describe a lunar eclipse.

A lunar eclipse is an astronomical event that occurs when the Moon is located in the Earth's shadow. The Sun, Moon, and Earth must be lined up perfectly for this to happen. During a lunar eclipse, a full Moon might seem to 'disappear', or the Moon may appear to be red.

3. Describe a solar eclipse.

A solar eclipse is an astronomical event that occurs when the Moon moves between the Sun and the Earth in perfect alignment to block the Sun's light. The Moon casts a shadow on Earth. The shadow of the Moon is fairly small compared to the size of Earth, so only certain places on Earth will be in the shadow and experience darkness during the solar eclipse. During a total solar eclipse, the Sun may appear visible as only a ring of light.

4. Describe the auroras.

The auroras are a natural display of coloured lights in Earth's sky. They appear as beautiful curtains of light in the night sky, and sometimes appear to be moving or 'dancing'. The most common colour seen in the northern lights is green, but pink, red, blue, and purple displays can also occur.

5. What are the auroras called in the northern hemisphere? (Two names). The southern hemisphere? (Two names).

Auroras in the northern hemisphere are also known as the northern lights or aurora borealis. Auroras in the southern hemisphere are also known as the southern lights or aurora australis.