Part 1: Glossary

Key term	Definition
artificial satellite	A manmade spacecraft.
asteroid	Lumps of rock orbiting the Sun left over from when the Solar System formed.
axis	The imaginary line that the Earth spins around.
ceramic	A compound such as a metal silicate or oxide that is hard, strong, and has a high melting point.
constellation	A collection of stars that make a pattern in the sky.
core	The innermost layer of the Earth, which extends about halfway from the centre of the Earth to the surface.
crust	The rocky outer layer of the Earth.
day	The time it takes a planet to make one full spin on its axis.
deposition	The settling of sediments that have moved away from their original rock.
durable	A property of a material meaning it is difficult to damage.
dwarf planet	A small lump of rock in orbit around the Sun.
Earth	A rocky inner planet third from the Sun in the Solar System.
erosion	The breaking of a rock into sediments and their movement away from the original rock.
exoplanet	Planet that orbits a Sun outside our Solar System.
galaxy	Collection of stars held together by gravity. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way.
geocentric model	A model of the Solar System with the Earth at the centre.
heliocentric model	A model of the Solar System with the Sun at the centre.
igneous rock	Formed when liquid rock (lava or magma) cools or freezes. Their minerals are arranged in crystals. Examples are granite, basalt, and obsidian.

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lava	Liquid rock that is above the Earth's surface.
light year	The distance light travels in a year (over 9 million, million kilometres).
magma	Liquid rock below the Earth's surface.
mantle	The layer of Earth that is below the crust. It is solid but can flow very slowly.
metamorphic rock	Formed from existing rocks exposed to heat and/or pressure over a long time. Examples are marble, slate, and schist.
Milky Way	Galaxy containing our Sun, Solar System, and billions of other stars and planets.
mineral	Chemicals that rocks are made from.
Moon	A rocky body orbiting the Earth, it is Earth's only natural satellite.
natural satellite	A moon in orbit around a planet.
night	The period on one section of the Earth, or other planet, when it is facing away from the Sun.
obsidian	An example of an igneous rock.
orbit	Path taken by one object moving around another larger object, such as a satellite around the Earth. Earth completes one orbit of the Sun every year.
phases of the Moon	Shape of the Moon as we see it from Earth because it reflects light from the Sun.
planet	Any large body that orbits a star in a Solar System.
porous	A porous material has small gaps that may contain substances in their liquid or gas states. Water can soak into a porous material.
rock cycle	Sequence of processes where rocks change from one type to another, over a timescale of millions of years.
season	Changes in temperature during the year as the Earth moves around its orbit.
sediment	Pieces of rock that have broken away from their original rock.
sedimentary rock	Formed from layers of sediment, which can contain fossils. Examples are chalk, limestone, and sandstone.

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Solar System	The Sun and the planets and other bodies in orbit around it.
star	Bodies that give out light and that may have a Solar System of planets.
strata	Layers of sedimentary rock.
Sun	The star at the centre of our Solar System.
transport	Movement of sediments far from their original rock.
Universe	Everything that exists.
uplift	Uplift happens when huge forces from inside the Earth push rocks upwards.
weathering	The breaking down of rock into smaller pieces by physical, chemical or biological processes.
year	The length of time it takes for a planet to orbit the Sun.