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| Universe | All galaxies combined together |
| Galaxy | A collection of solar systems |
| Solar system | The sun with all the planets and other  bodies that revolve around it |
| Pole | Fixed point on the surface of a spinning body  that is located 90 degrees from the equator |
| Axis | Imaginary line that runs through the interior of the earth from the north pole to the south pole |
| Equator | Imaginary line that divides the earth into the  northern and southern hemisphere |
| Latitude | Imaginary line that runs parallel to the equator; these lines run east to west but determine a distance  north or south of the equator |
| Longitude | Imaginary line that runs from pole to pole; these lines run north to south but determine a distance  east or west from the prime meridian. |
| Rotation | Spinning motion of the earth on its axis |
| Revolution | Movement or orbiting of the earth around the sun |
| Precession | Change in the orientation of the  rotational axis of an orbiting body |
| Perihelion | The point nearest to the sun in the orbit of a planet |
| Aphelion | The point farthest from the sun in the orbit of a planet |
| Solstice | Literally means “sun stands still”; happens twice  a year when the sun is at its highest and  lowest points in the sky at noon |
| Equinox | Literally means “equal night and day”; occurs  when the number of hours of daylight is  equal to the number of hours of darkness |
| Fusion | A nuclear reaction in which two atomic nuclei join together to form a new atomic nucleus |
| Fission | Occurs when the nucleus of an atom  splits into smaller particles |
| Radiation | The process by which electromagnetic waves travel through space |
| Magnetosphere | Region that extends beyond the earth’s atmosphere  that protects the earth from the harmful  solar winds and cosmic rays |