

## Astronomy Vocabulary

- Astronomy - the study of the moon, earth, stars, and other objects in space.
- Axis - an imaginary line that passes through the earth's center and the North and South poles, about which the earth rotates.
- Inertia - the tendency of a moving object to continue moving in a straight line or a stationary object to remain in place.
- Gravity - the attractive force between two objects.
- Rotation - the spinning motion of a planet about its axis.
- Revolution - the movement of an object around another object.
- Orbit - the path of an object as it revolves around another object in space.
- Equinox - two days during the year that where neither hemisphere is tilted toward or away from the sun.
- Autumnal equinox - the day of the year that marks the beginning of fall in the northern hemisphere.
- Vernal equinox - the day of the year that marks the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere.
- Solstice - the two days of the year on which the noon sun is directly overhead at either  $23.5^\circ$  South and  $23.5^\circ$  North.