

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. gravity | the force of attraction between two masses | 16. uniformitarianism | the idea that the present is the key to the past; that geological processes occurring today have occurred in the same regular manner throughout geological time |
| 2. greenhouse effect | the trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere, due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface | 17. wavelength | the distance between two crests (or two troughs) of a wave |
| 3. hypothesis | a proposed explanation made on the basis of limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation | | |
| 4. nebula | a cloud of gas or small particles in outer space | | |
| 5. protostar | a flattened cloud of gas and dust in space believed to develop into a star | | |
| 6. quasar | a name short for quasistellar astronomical object; all have large red shifts, showing they are travelling at very high speeds | | |
| 7. radioactivity | the emission of ionizing radiation or particles caused by the spontaneous disintegration of atomic nuclei | | |
| 8. red shift | the lines in the spectra of galaxies move to longer wavelengths than they found when spectra are produced here on Earth | | |
| 9. respiration | a process in living organisms involving the production of energy, typically with the intake of oxygen and the release of carbon dioxide from the oxidation of complex organic substances | | |
| 10. seismic wave | wave motion in the Earth caused by earthquakes | | |
| 11. solar system | the sun, together with the planets, comets and asteroids that are held by its gravity and orbit around it | | |
| 12. spectroscopy | the production, measurement and interpretation of electromagnetic spectra from either the emissions or absorption of radiant energy | | |
| 13. steady state theory | a theory that new matter is created as the universe is expanding outwards to keep the density of the universe constant | | |
| 14. supernova | a star that suddenly bursts into very great brilliance as a result of it exploding | | |
| 15. theory | a proposed explanation for a group of connected observations that has been successfully tested | | |