

GLOSSARY

A

apogee point in the orbit of a satellite at which the satellite is farthest from the Earth (621)

C

calendar system used to measure the passage of time (627)

crater bowl-shaped depression on the surface of a planetary body (616)

D

day time required for the Earth to make one rotation on its axis, about 24 hours (627)

E

earthshine sunlight reflected off the surface of the Earth (626)

eclipse passing of one planetary body through the shadow of another (623)

F

full moon phase of the moon during which the entire half of the moon facing the Earth is visible (626)

G

Galilean moon any one of the four largest satellites of Jupiter, which were first seen by Galileo (631)

Gregorian calendar revision of the Julian calendar by Pope Gregory XIII; currently used in most of the world (628)

J

Julian calendar calendar devised by Julius Caesar's astronomers consisting of 12 months; 11 with 30 or 31 days, one with 28 days, and an extra day added every four years (628)

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L

leap year year with an extra day in it, occurring every four years (628)

lunar eclipse passing of the Earth between the moon and the Sun during which the Earth's shadow crosses the lighted half of the moon (624)

M

maria (sing: mare) dark areas of smooth, dry, solidified lava on the moon that reflect little light (616)

month time required for the moon to go through one set of phases as it orbits the Earth, about 29.5 days (627)

N

new moon phase of the moon during which the side of the moon facing the Earth is unlighted (626)

P

penumbra outer part of the shadow cast by the Earth or the moon in which sunlight is only partially blocked (623)

perigee point in the orbit of a satellite at which it is closest to the Earth (621)

phase varying shape of the visible portion of the moon (626)

R

ray streak of displaced rock material radiating from a crater (616)

rille long, deep channel that runs through the maria on the moon (616)

S

solar eclipse passing of the moon between the Earth and the Sun during which the shadow of the moon falls on the Earth (623)

solar year time required for the Earth to make one orbit around the Sun, about 365.24 days (627)

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U

umbra inner, cone-shaped part of the shadow cast by the Earth or the moon in which sunlight is completely blocked (623)

W

waning describing the phase of the moon during which the size of its visible portion is decreasing (626)

waxing describing the phase of the moon during which the size of its visible portion is increasing (626)