

Exoplanets Vocabulary Flashcards



Name: _____

Cut out your flashcards along the dotted line. Then, fold each flashcard along the solid line and tape it closed. Use the remaining time to practice using your new flashcards!

astrometry	a method for finding exoplanets that looks for tiny changes in a star's location caused by an exoplanet's gravity
direct imaging	using high-power telescopes to take pictures of exoplanets
Doppler effect	when sound or light waves squeeze or stretch because of the movement of the object making them
exoplanet	a planet located outside our solar system
gas giant	the largest type of exoplanet, composed mainly of gas

habitable zone	the orbital band around a star where temperatures would allow liquid water and life to exist
light-year	the distance that light can travel in the space of one year (around 6,000,000,000,000 miles)
mini-Neptune	an exoplanet that is smaller than Neptune but larger than Earth
Neptunian	the second-largest type of exoplanet, composed mainly of gas
orbit	the path a planet takes around its star
probability	a branch of mathematics that explains how likely something is to happen

radial velocity	a method for detecting exoplanets by looking for stars impacted by a planet's gravity
rogue planet	a planet that drifts and doesn't have a regular orbit around a star
spectroscopy	a method of determining the composition of an exoplanet by reading the color and pattern of light waves that pass through the planet's atmosphere
super-Earth	the third-largest type of exoplanet, larger than Earth and often rocky
terrestrial	the smallest type of exoplanet, always rocky and Earth-sized or smaller
starshade	a theoretical device that could be used to block a star's light from interfering with a space-based telescope

transit method

a way to detect exoplanets by
looking for variations in the
brightness of a star

