Year 5 Merlins
Science
Summer 1

Astronomy

Key Vocabulary	Definition
black hole	A region of space having a gravitational field so intense that no matter or radiation can escape.
celestial	Positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy.
cluster	A small, close group of things that are alike.
crescent	A curved shape that has two narrow pointed ends.
galaxy	A system of millions or billions of stars, together with gas and dust, held together by gravitational attraction.
gravity	The force that attracts a body toward the centre of the earth, or toward any other physical body having mass e.g., The Sun.
Jovian	Relating to the planet Jupiter or the class of giant planets to which Jupiter belongs.
matter	Physical substance in general which occupies space.
orbit	The curved path of a celestial object or spacecraft around a star, planet, or moon, especially a periodic elliptical revolution.
phase	A particular stage in a cycle of development or process of change.
satellite	A celestial or artificial body orbiting the Earth or another planet.
terrestrial	Of, on, or relating to the Earth.
theorise	To form a theory or set of theories about something.
universe	All existing matter and space considered as a whole; the cosmos.
waning	To grow smaller or less. Decrease in size.
waxing	Any phase of the moon during the lunar cycle between the new moon and the full moon.

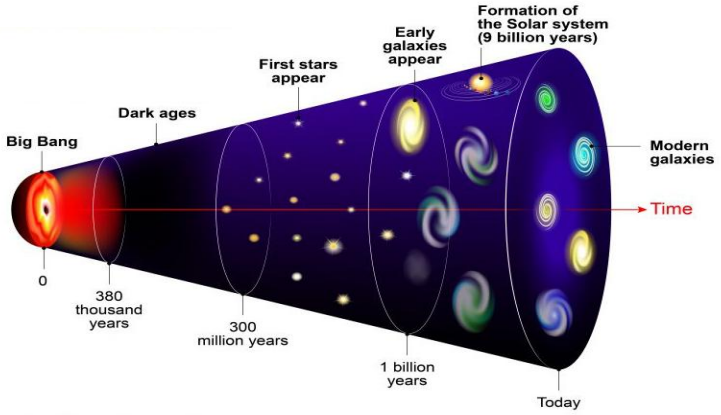
The Solar System

The Solar System has eight planets: The four closest to The Sun are rock planets and four furthest from The Sun are gas planets. Jupiter is the largest planet and Mercury is the smallest. It is only slightly larger than our moon.

The BIG BANG Theory

The big bang is how astronomers explain the way the universe began. It is the idea that the universe began as just a single point, then expanded and stretched to grow as large as it is right now—and it is still stretching!

Evolution of the Universe



Phases of the Moon

The same part of the moon is illuminated by the Sun all the time as the moon takes 28 days to orbit the Earth as well as turning on its axis! It looks different because we do not always see the same part of the moon from Earth.