**Chapter 4, Lesson 1 Introducing the Solar System**

solar system – consists of the sun, the planets, their moons, and a variety of smaller objects.

astronomical unit – (AU) equals the average distance between Earth and the sun

planet – must be round, orbit the sun, and have cleared out the region of the solar system along its orbit

dwarf planet – an object that orbits the sun, and has enough gravity to be spherical but has not cleared the area of its orbit.

Planetesimal – formed by rock and ice small bodies are called this

**Chapter 4, Lesson 2 Earth’s Moon**

maria – dark, flat areas are hardened rock formed from huge lava flows that occurred 3 – 4 billion years ago (on the moon)

craters – large round pits can be hundreds of km across

meteroids – chunks of rock and dust from space that cause craters

**Chapter 4, Lesson 3 The Inner Planets**

terrestrial planets – from the latin word “terra” which means “Earth”. The 4 inner planets

greenhouse effect – the trapping of heat by the atmosphere

**Chapter 4, Lesson 4 The Outer Planets**

gas giant – The four outer planets are much larger and more massive than Earth, and they do not have solid surfaces

ring – a thick disk of small particles of ice and rock that surround the gas giants