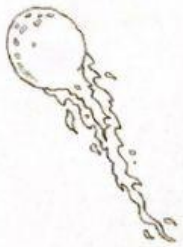
Lesson 19

The Sun and Other Objects in Space

The sun is the only **star** in the solar system, but there are millions of stars in the universe. We can only see a small portion of them with our naked eyes. Some stars seem to shine brighter than others. This is because they are closer to the earth or because they give off more radiant energy. People who study the stars are called **Astronomers**. Astronomers classify stars by their surface **temperatures, colour** and **brightness**.

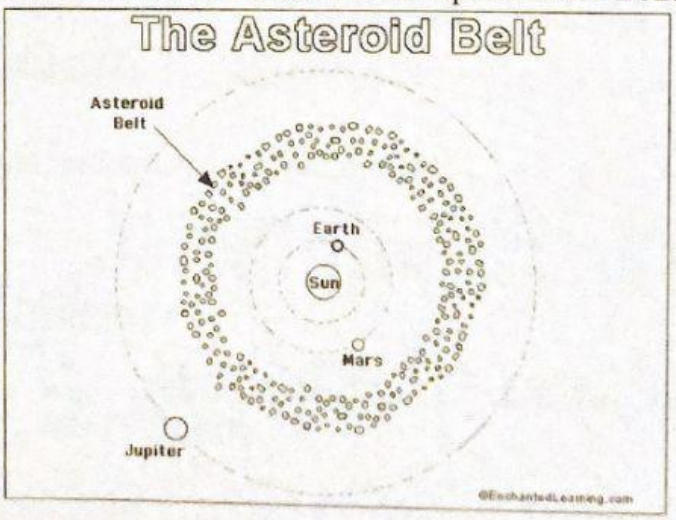
There are several prominent stars that can be seen in the night sky. Some are arranged in the shape of animals and objects. A group of stars such as these is called a **constellation**. Some common constellations are **Southern Cross, Great Dipper, Little Dipper, Orion** and the **twelve signs of the Zodiac**.

There are many other bodies found in outer space. The most common is the **meteoroid**. It is a mass of metal or stone moving through space. Sometimes meteoroids fall to the earth. When they enter earth's atmosphere, they burst into fire. The streak of light produced passes through earth's atmosphere and is called a **meteor**. If any part of a meteor survives and reaches the earth, it is called a **meteorite.**



Another object is called an **asteroid**. This is a chunk of rock found mainly between Mars and Jupiter. The asteroid belt orbits the sun.

Another space object is a comet. **Comets** are made of **rocks, frozen water, frozen gas,** and **dust**. When a comet gets close to the sun, you will be able to see a long glowing tail or coma. This coma consists of particles ejected from the comet as the sun's heat vaporizes the frozen components.



1. What is the name given to people who study stars? [1]

2. What is a group of stars call? [1]

3. Name THREE group of stars. [3]

4. What is a meteoroid? [3]

5. What is the chunk of rock found between Mars and Jupiter? [1]

6. Name the object that is made of rock, frozen water, frozen gas, and dust. [1]

7. Explain why some stars seem to shine brighter than others. [2]