Name: Date: Period:

**Astronomy Review Sheet**

* The ***Big Bang*** states that the Universe was created about 14.6 billion years ago. Our solar system was created much later – the Earth is 4.6 billion years old and life on Earth began 3.5 billion years ago.
* Matter has been moving apart ever since. Gradually, gravity took hold, forcing the matter to stick together in clumps – these clumps become our stars, planets, moons, etc.
* Our solar system is the ***Milky Way Galaxy***. There is only one star in our solar system and we named it the sun.
* ***Gravity*** depends on two things: 1) mass; 2) distance to a celestial object
* All stars are suns – the stars we see in the sky are suns in other galaxies in our universe.
* **Light Years** – the distance light travels in one year. (9.46 trillion kilometers) – this is NOT a measurement of time, it is a measurement of distance
* Our entire galaxy rotates ***counterclockwise***.
* Astronomers can tell what chemical elements the star is composed of ***(different elements give off different wavelengths of light)***
* There are 2 types of planets –***terrestrial*** (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) or rocky land – and ***jovial gas giants*** (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune).



* ***Copernicus*** was the first scientist to correctly state that the sun was the center of the solar system.
* Suns have different colors and sizes. The *hotter* the star, the *bluer* the color. The *cooler* the star, the *redder* the color.
* The ***apparent magnitude*** of a star is how it appears to us. The ***absolute magnitude*** is the actual brightness of a star. Sometimes stars/suns appear brighter and bigger to us because they are closer.
* The apparent motion of the stars is due to the Earth’s rotation on its axis.
* The ***H-R (Hertzsprung and Henry Russell) Diagram*** shows that the brightness of most stars increases as the star’s surface temperature increases.
* Stars have a life cycle and are “born” from nebulas and either explodes (supernova) or becomes a black hole.
* Stars “appear” to move – but they really don’t. They look like that because the Earth is rotating!
* The Earth’s ***rotation*** is 1 day – it takes 24 hours for the Earth to spin once on its axis.
* The Earth’s ***revolution*** is 1 year – it takes 365 days for the Earth to revolve around the sun.
* The Earth is ***tilted*** 23.5 degrees to the right – this along with its revolution causes ***seasons.***
* ***Remember seasons are opposite*** in the northern and southern hemispheres.
* ***To find the season:***
	+ Ask yourself where the Northern Hemisphere is tilted AWAY from the sun. That is winter.
	+ The direct opposite is summer (Northern Hemisphere is tilted TOWARDS the sun).
	+ Then, draw an arrow to show the revolution as counterclockwise.
	+ The season after winter is spring, and the season after summer is fall (autumn).



**Revolution = counterclockwise**

Northern Hemisphere is tilted TOWARDS the sun (**summer** in the Northern Hemisphere, winter in the Southern Hemipshere).

Northern Hemisphere is tilted AWAY from sun (**winter** in the Northern Hemisphere, summer in the Southern Hemipshere).

* The ***equinoxes*** are the first day of spring and autumn – everywhere on Earth received exactly 12 hours of darkness and 12 hours of light.
* The tilt of the axis causes the poles to have constant darkness followed by constant daylight hours.
* The moon’s ***revolution = rotation*** around Earth. This is why we see the same side of the moon! It takes 27 1/3 days for the moon to make one full, complete cycle of phases.
* The moon looks lit because of the sun’s reflection.
* ***Waning*** means getting darker; ***waxing*** means getting brighter.
* If a half moon is lit on the left side, it is always 3rd quarter.
* If a half moon is lit on the right side, it is always 1st quarter.
* There are 2 high tides and 2 low tides every day because of the pull of the moon on the Earth as we rotate throughout the day.
	+ ***Neap tide*** occurs at the quarters.
	+ ***Spring tide*** occurs at a full and new moon.
* A ***Solar eclipse*** occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and Sun and occurs only during ***New Moon***.
* A ***Lunar eclipse*** occurs when the moon moves through the Earth’s shadow and occurs only during a ***Full Moon.***

**LUNAR ECLIPSE SOLAR ECLIPSE**

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