GLOSSARY

Α

aurora sheets of colored light produced by a magnetic storm in the Earth's upper atmosphere (579)

С

chromosphere thin layer of the Sun's atmosphere that lies above the photosphere and glows with a reddish light; color sphere (575)

convective zone region around the Sun's radiative zone in which moving gases transfer energy (574)

corona outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere; crown (575)

M

moon body that is smaller than a planet and orbits the planet (580)

Ν

nebular theory theory that the Sun and the planets condensed out of a spinning cloud of gas and dust (580)

Ρ

photosphere innermost layer of the solar atmosphere; light sphere (574)

planet any one of the nine major bodies that orbit the Sun (580)

planetesimal small body of matter that formed in the outer regions of the solar nebula while the Sun was forming in its center (580)

prominence cloud of glowing gases that arches high above the Sun's surface (577)

protoplanet large body of matter that formed from the coalescence of planetesimals in the solar nebula (580)

R

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radiative zone region surrounding the core of the Sun in which energy is transferred in the form of electromagnetic waves (574)

GLOSSARY

S

solar flare sudden, violent eruption of electrically charged atomic particles from the Sun's surface (578)

solar nebula cloud of gas and dust that developed into the solar system (580)

solar system the Sun and the bodies that revolve around it (580)

solar wind electrically charged atomic particles that stream out into space through holes in the Sun's corona (575)

sunspot cool, dark area of gas within the photosphere caused by powerful magnetic fields (576)

sunspot cycle periodic variation in the number of sunspots that occurs approximately every 11 years (577)