**Notes on Sun and Moon for Stemscopedia**

The sun is a star

A star is an extremely hot, dense mass of gases. As these gases burn, the star gives off radiation which creates light and heat.

The sun has enough mass that its gravitational pull holds the planets and other objects I the solar system in orbit.

Axis – An imaginary line through the center of a sphere.

Moon – Orbits around the Earth

One full trip around Earth approximately every month.

The moon does not have any natural light of its own.

Moon phases – refers to the illuminated portion of the moon visible from earth.

Be able to identify a new moon, waxing cresent, waxing gibbons, full, waning gibbons, and a waning cresent. Diagram is on first page of Stemscopedia.

More notes to follow.

Constellations – A constellation is a set of stars that makes a pattern when viewed in relation to each other.

Because Earth rotates, constellations appear to move in the sky from east to west, like the sun. But in reality, the Earth is rotating and also revolving around the sun. At certain positions throughout the year, certain stars are visible from certain positions on Earth.