

NOEL'S SPACE BLOG



Focus Morpheme

Root	<i>astro (aster)</i>
Pronunciation	The root <i>astro</i> is pronounced /as-trō/. The root <i>aster</i> is pronounced /as-ter/.

Etymology of *astro (aster)*

Origin	Greek
Meaning	star; outer space
Example: astronaut	Look at the word astronaut . The Greek <i>astro</i> means “star” or “outer space,” and <i>naut</i> comes from the Greek <i>nautēs</i> , meaning “sailor.” The word astronaut then means “star sailor” or “space traveller.”

Vocabulary

- astronauts
- astrophysical
- astronomy
- astrology
- astronomers
- asteroids
- astrophysicists
- disaster

Activating Prior Knowledge

- Have you ever read a blog?
If so, what was it about?
- What do you know about blogs?



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● Posted May 8th

Today in Science class we watched a video about **astronauts**. I dream of becoming an **astronaut** one day. I want to put on a spacesuit and float around in zero gravity. Maybe I'll even visit the Moon or Mars. My parents said that becoming an **astronaut** requires a lot of hard work and studying. But that's okay, because I love learning about all things space. **Astronomy** is my passion. I hope to one day join the ranks of those amazing **astronomers** and **astrophysicists** who explore the cosmos. For now, I'll continue to learn, stargaze, and reach for the stars!

Yours in space,
Noel (future **astronaut**)



● Posted May 4th

I've found out there's an observatory not too far from where we live! It's called the Rothney **Astrophysical** Observatory, and it's at the University of Calgary. Someone with a great job there is Jennifer Howse. She is Métis from Alberta, and she teaches people about the observatory's huge telescope. Jennifer also tries to make people aware of the importance of cutting back on light pollution. That way, *everyone* can see the night sky, even without a telescope.

Yours in space,
Noel



Jennifer Howse

● Posted May 1st

I've been reading books about **asteroids** lately. They're like space rocks that zoom around the solar system. Some **asteroids** can be really small, like tiny pebbles. Others can be enormous, like mountains in space. They're a bit scary because if they ever come too close to Earth, it could be a real **disaster**.

But scientists such as **astronomers** and **astrophysicists** are working hard to keep an eye on them and planning ways to keep us safe.

Yours in space,
Noel



Vocabulary

Connections

The word **disaster** includes the root *aster*. By adding the prefix *dis-*, which can mean “ill or wrong,” we create the word **disaster**, which means “an ill-starred event.”

● Posted April 24th

I've always been so curious about the stars, the planets, and the mysteries of the universe. My fascination with **astronomy** began when I used to gaze at the night sky with my parents when I was really little.

Tonight, I was talking with my mom about the difference between **astronomy** and **astrology**. **Astronomy** is the study of the stars and celestial objects. **Astrology** is about horoscopes, and how some people believe the positions of stars and planets might influence our lives. It was so cool to learn that there are real scientists called **astronomers** who study the stars. Other scientists called **astrophysicists** look into the physical properties of objects in the sky.

Yours in space,
Noel

Time to Talk

These blog entries mention three jobs related to the stars and space: **astronaut**, **astronomer**, and **astrophysicist**.

- What is your understanding of each of these jobs?
- What do the people in each of these jobs do?

Word Study

In your Word Study notebook, add today's morpheme.

New Morpheme	Type of Morpheme	Origin	Meaning
<i>astro (aster)</i>	root	Greek	star; outer space

Word Hunt: Search the text on pages 2 and 3 for words with morphemes you recognize. Add the words to a table like the one below. An example has been provided for you.

Word from Text	Recognized Morpheme(s)	Morpheme Type	Meaning of Morpheme(s)
scientists	<i>-ist</i>	suffix	"one who"

Writing Connections

Pretend you are Noel, the author of these blog entries. Write another entry about what you imagine it would be like to be an **astronaut**. Or, if you prefer, choose another topic and write three blog entries on that topic.

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