**Topical Vocabulary**

*Definitions from:* *Asteroids, Meteorites, And Comets by Linda T. Elkins-Tanton*

Achondrite- A stony (silicate based) meteorite that contains no chondrules; these originate in differentiated bodies and may be mantle material or lavas.

Chondrite- A class of meteorite thought to contain the most primitive material left from the solar nebula; named after their glassy, super-primitive inclusions called chondrules.

Chondrule- Rounded, glassy, and crystalline bodies incorporated into the most primitive of meteorites; thought to be the condensed droplets of the earliest solar system materials.

Differentiated body- A spherical body that has a structure of concentric spherical layers, differing in terms of composition, heat, density, and/or motion; caused by gravitational separations and heating events such as planetary accretion.

Iron Meteorite- Meteorites that consist largely of iron-nickel metal; thought to bbe parts of the cores o smashed planetesimals from the early solar system accretion

Parent body-The larger body that has been broken to produce smaller pieces; large bodies in the asteroid belt are thought to be the parent bodies of meteroites that fall to Earth today

Planetesimal- The small, condensed bodies that formed early in the solar system and presumably accreted to make the planets; probably resembled comets of asteroids.