

Glossary: Perception of the Sacred

Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) – A type of extremely large telescope that allows scientists to see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with greater sensitivity. In the context of this lesson plan, the TMT refers to the telescope planned to be built on Mauna Kea in Hawai'i.

Mauna Kea – a dormant volcano on the island of Hawai'i and a site of importance for Indigenous people of Hawai'i. In ancient times, only certain Hawaiian religious leaders were allowed to visit the peak of the volcano. Some Native Hawaiians believe their ancestors were buried on the mountain. It is also a site of endemic species and a conservation area.

Sacred – an object, belief, place, idea, etc. that has extreme significance to an individual or community, often on a spiritual or religious level.

Indigenous – refers to a person who has ancestry tied to a specific location/group of people, often a site that has experienced settler colonialism.