



Sitwell Infant School Science Glossary

It relates primarily to words and phrases that the children should know and understand as outlined in the National Curriculum.

Science Glossary of Terms	
absorb	To take in or soak up.
absorbent	This means it is able to take in or soak up water.
adapt	This means when something changes for a particular use or purpose.
adult	A mature or grown up human being aged 18 years or above.
air	Animals and humans take in these gases to stay alive.
air resistance	The force applied to an object when it passes directly through a gas.
ammeter	A device to measure the magnitude of an electrical current in amperes.
amphibian	Y1. An animal with slimy skin that lives in water or on land.
animals	A large group of living things that can move around by themselves looking for food such as birds, fish and reptiles.
arachnid	These are invertebrates with 8 legs.
artery	This vessel takes blood away from the heart.
asexual reproduction	When offspring is produced without sexual processes.
asteroids	A small rocky planet-like body that circle the sun.
attract	To cause something to come nearer to it.
Autumn	The season when the leaves usually fall from the trees.
baby	A very young girl or boy. They can often be called an infant at this stage.
balanced diet	Y1. When you eat the correct amount of all foods Y2. People eat this to keep healthy and get the correct vitamins.
bark	This covers the whole tree trunk.
battery	A device that makes electricity using chemical reactions.
bendy	When a material can be moved in different directions without breaking.
bird	Y1. An animal that is covered in feathers.
block	To stop or hinder something.

blood	Y3. The liquid in the body that carries oxygen around the body.
boil	To change from a liquid to a gas state through heat.
bones	These make up the human skeleton.
brain	The organ in your skull that controls your body.
bud	The swelling on a plant that allows for new growth.
bulb	A plant bud that grows underground.
burning	To be in flames or on fire.
calendar	A chart of days, months and years.
camouflage	Animals use this to blend into the environment.
canine	The sharp teeth located at the front section of the mouth used for ripping.
carbohydrate	A group of foods which makes and stores energy in the body. This can be found in fruit, cereal and bread.
Carl Linnaeus	A scientist famous for his work in Taxonomy.
carnivore	An animal which eats only meat.
ceramic	This delicate material is used to make plates and cups.
Charles Darwin	This person theorised about evolution and our history as humans.
child	A young human being.
circulation	The movement of blood through the arteries and veins of the body.
classification	A group in which something is sorted into.
classify	To sort or place something in a category depending on its features.
clay	This material starts off quite soft and can be moulded into different shapes.
corrosion	The breaking down of a material.
crystals	A clear kind of rock. Examples are diamond and quartz.
darkness	This means when there is very little or no light.
day	This made up of 24 hours.
deciduous	The name given to a tree that loses its leaves.
deforestation	The act of cutting down trees of a forest.
digestion	The process of breaking down food in the body.
disperse	This means when seeds are spread outwards from the plant.
dissolve	To mix completely with a liquid.

ear	The part of the body used to hear.
Earth	The planet that we live on that is often called the Goldilocks planet.
environment	The things and conditions that are all around something.
evaporation	To turn a liquid into a gas.
Evergreen	The name given to a tree that doesn't lose its leaves during the winter time.
evolve	This word means when something develops and changes gradually overtime.
exercise	Moving to keep you active
face	The front part of your head where your nose, eyes and mouth is.
fat	This group of foods can be unhealthy for you in high portions. This can be found in chocolate, butter and bacon.
fertiliser	A chemical substance added to the soil to make it better for growing plants.
filter	A device used to remove dirt or other solids from liquids or gases.
fish	Y1. An animal which lives in water and breaths though gills.
flower	The part of the plant that attracts insects.
Flower border	A plot cultivated along the side of a lawn where flowers and shrubs can be grown.
flowering	A plant which develops flowers on it.
food chain	A diagram to show which animals eat other animals.
forces	The invisible push or pull given by the magnet.
fossil	Y3. The remains of a living thing from a long time ago found in the Earth or rock.
freeze	To change from a liquid to solid state through cooling.
friction	The rubbing of objects against each other.
fruit	This grows on trees and can often be eaten.
gas	A state of matter that is neither liquid nor solid. It is often invisible.
germination	The process of a plant growing from a seed.
gestation	The time that an organism spends developing in a womb.

glass	An often transparent material used to make windows.
grains	The pattern made by fibres running through the rock.
gravity	The force that pulls an object towards the centre of the Earth.
growth	The process of growing.
habitat	Where an animal lives.
hardness	The state or condition of being hard or soft.
heart	The organ that pumps blood around the body.
herbivore	An animal which eats only plants.
hibernation	When an animal sleeps throughout the winter.
human	A person or human being.
hygiene	Keeping yourself clean.
impact	The effect or cause something has on another thing.
incisor	The teeth located at the front of the mouth used for biting.
insect	Y1. An animal with 6 legs.
instruments	These are often used to make music.
intestine	The lower part of the digestion system below the stomach. It is divided into two parts.
invertebrate	A group of animals which do not have a skeleton inside their body.
irreversible change	A change that cannot be reversed.
kidneys	These organs remove water and waste products from the blood.
leaf	Flat parts of the plant that grow on the stems or branches.
lever	A handle used to control or set the position of a part in a machine.
lifespan	How long a living thing lives for.
light source	Something that makes its own light.
limestone	A rock formed mostly from shells and other animal remains.
liquid	Describes a material that is often runny and does not hold its shape.
litter	A mess of waste materials or objects scattered around.
liver	The organ acts as the body's filter by producing enzymes.

lungs	These are large sacks that fill with air to help us breath.
magnet	An object that has the power to pull items that are magnetic towards it.
magnetic	Describes an item that would be attracted to the magnet.
mammal	Y1. An animal which has fur and gives birth to its young.
man made	When something has been made by a human or machine.
manufactured	To make by machine in a large amount.
mass	The weight of something often given in grams or kilograms.
mature	This means when a plant is old.
measurement	The act of measuring something using a specific unit.
melt	To change from a solid to liquid state through heat.
metal	A very hard material used for making cars, train tracks and paper clips.
micro-habitat	A small place where an animal lives such as a rock pool or log pile.
micro-organism	Any life form so small that it can only be seen with a microscope.
mineral	These are taken up from the soil to help the plants grow.
mirror	A reflective object that you can usually see a reflection in.
molar	The largest teeth located at the back of the mouth used for grinding food up.
month	There are twelve of these in a year.
mouth	The place of the body used to chew up your food before swallowing it.
muscle	Y1. These help your body move and stay strong. Y3. Body tissue made up of fibres that move parts of the body.
muscular	This word describes something that is related to the fibres of the body.
music	Sound with tone and rhythm that people often enjoy listening to.
natural	When something has been made by the environment.

nocturnal	Describes a night hunter.
non-flowering	A plant which does not develop flowers on it.
non-magnetic	Describes an item that would not be attracted to the magnet.
nutrition	Y2. When living things get the vitamins and minerals they need. Y3. The process of eating and using the nutrients in food for living and growing.
oesophagus	A tube that moves food from the mouth to the stomach.
offspring	Y1. The name to describe an animal or humans babies.
omnivore	An animal which eats both plants and meat.
opaque	When an object does not let any light through and you can't see through it.
organic	Natural materials coming from living things.
parachute	A large device made of strong, thin cloth that opens like an umbrella. It can help slow a person down when they are falling.
parent	This word describes the mother or father of the offspring.
pattern	A repeating sound often used in music.
periscope	A device used to see over obstacles using mirrors.
permeable	This means when substances can travel through a material.
pet	An animal that is often kept in the house.
photosynthesis	The process when a plant makes its own food using the light from the sun.
pitch	The word used to describe how high or low the note or sound is.
plants	A large group of living things that use sunlight to make their own food.
plastic	This material is man-made and Lego is made of this.
pole	Either of the two ends of the magnet where the magnetic forces meet and are at their strongest.
pollen	The fine, yellow powder made by flowering plant.
population	The total amount of living thing in a certain place.
predator	An animal usually at the top of the food chain and eats other animals.
prehistoric	Belonging to a period of time before written history.

pre-molar	The teeth that grow directly in front of the molars.
prey	Y2. An animal that is eaten by another animal.
producer	A plant at the start of the food chain.
protein	A group of foods which helps your muscles grow stronger. This is found in meat, fish and beans.
pulley	A simple machine that makes lifting something easier and it has a wheel or set of wheels that a rope can be pulled over.
rain fall	Shows how much water has fallen in a given time.
rainbow	A natural phenomenon made when it is raining and sunny.
reflective	Y2. When a material is shiny and can recreate a reflection.
repel	To cause something to go further away from it.
reptile	Y1. Animals with scales that lay eggs on land.
reversible change	A change that can be reversed or put back to its original state.
rock	A natural material used to make houses and structures.
roots	This part of the plant is usually in the soil collecting vitamins.
rusting	A brown/orange coating that forms on a metal when it is exposed to water or air.
seed	The small part of a plant that grows into a new plant.
seedling	A young tree or plant grown from a seed.
senses	These include taste, smell and sight.
shadow	This shape is created in the absence of light.
sieving	A tool used to separate solid from a liquid or to separate smaller pieces from larger pieces.
sight	The ability to see clearly.
skeletal	This word describes something that is related to the bones of the body.
skeleton	A collection of bones that give the body support and structure.
skin	This covers the whole body and is covered in tiny hairs.
skull	This hard bone protects the brain.
smooth	When something is soft to touch.
soil	This is where the plant collects its nutrients from.
solid	Describes a material that is firm and holds its shape.
solubility	How easy a material is to dissolve in liquid.

soluble	When a material dissolves in a liquid.
solution	The process in which one substance mixes with another.
spring	An elastic device or object that returns to its original shape after being pressed or stretched out.
Spring	The season when new life starts to appear again and it's often quite rainy.
stalk/stem	The part of the plant that holds it upright.
stomach	This breaks down our food and helps us digest it.
strength	Describes how strong something is.
Summer	The season when it is usually warm.
Sun	A large ball of gas which is central to our solar system.
Sun safety	Keeping safe in warmer and sunnier conditions.
sunglasses	These help to protect your eyes from the sun.
surface	Y3. The top layer of something.
survival	When something stays alive.
survive	To continue to live despite serious threat to its life.
Taste buds	These are on your tongue and help you taste your food.
teenager	A young adolescent aged 13 – 17.
teeth	These are in your mouth and help you chew your food.
temperature	How hot or cold something is.
thermometer	The device used to measure temperature.
toddler	A young child that has just learned to walk.
translucent	When an object lets a little bit of light through and you cannot see very clearly through it.
transparency	How easy a material is to see through.
transparent	Y2. When you can see clearly through something. Y3. When an object lets light through it and you can see straight through it.
travel	The word to describe the movement of something.
trunk	The main stem of the tree covered in bark.
variation	The act or process of changing depending on another component.
Vegetable garden	A place used to grow natural produce many of which include vegetables.
vein	The vessel takes blood towards the heart.
vertebrate	A group of animals which have a skeleton inside their body.

vessel	One of the small tubes that carry blood and other fluids throughout the body.
vitamin	A number of natural substances needed for the health and normal working of the body. Often found in fruit and vegetables.
volume	This word is used to describe how loud or quiet the sound is.
water	A clear liquid that people need to stay hydrated.
water resistance	The force applied to an object when it passes directly through a liquid.
waterproof	Describes when something does not let water through it.
wild animal	An animal that lives in the wild and is not kept in a house.
wilting	To lose freshness and cause drooping.
Winter	The season when it is usually cold.
wire	These thin pieces of metal pass electricity around the circuit.
wood	A material often used for making pencils, tables or paper.
year	This is made up of 365 days or twelve months.