



Science Vocabulary

Glossary



<u>Word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Absorbent	A substance that can soak up a liquid, or to take in energy and retain it.
Accelerate /Acceleration	Acceleration is a measurement of change in an object's velocity/speed becoming faster.
Adaptation	Adaptation is the process by which living creatures (animals and plants) adapt or evolve to survive in their environment and to live amongst a specific group of other living things.
Air Resistance	Air resistance is the force on an object moving through air. Air resistance affects how fast or slowly objects move through the air.
Amphibians	Animals that live in water and on land. They have smooth, moist skins and lay their eggs in water.
Appliances	A device operated by electrical current
Arthropods	Arthropods are animals that have a hard outside covering called an exoskeleton
Artificial Light	Artificial light is created by humans. Flashlights, table lamps, neon signs, and televisions are some sources of artificial light
Astronomical Clocks	An astronomical clock is a clock with special mechanisms and dials to display astronomical information. It displays the relative positions of the sun, moon, zodiacal constellations, and sometimes major planets.
Battery	In an electrical circuit, the battery is the cell that makes electricity. Arteries take blood away from the heart to the body organs and tissues. Capillaries are tiny, thin-walled vessels which form a network to take blood through the organs and tissues. Veins collect blood from the capillaries in the body and return the blood to the heart.
Blood vessels	Arteries, veins and capillaries. There are three main types of blood vessels.
Canines	Canines are teeth used for tearing and ripping food. Children learn about them as part of their study of teeth and how to take care of them.
Carbohydrates	Most of the nutrients in food fall into three major groups: proteins, fats, and carbohydrates. The two main forms of carbohydrates are sugars (such as fructose, glucose, and lactose) and starches, which are found in foods such as starchy vegetables, grains, rice, breads, and cereals. The body breaks down (or converts) most carbohydrates into the sugar glucose, which is absorbed into the bloodstream.
Carbon Dioxide	A colorless gas, carbon dioxide has a faint, sharp odor and a slightly sour taste. Each molecule of carbon dioxide consists of one atom of carbon and two atoms of oxygen.
Carnivore	Carnivores are animals who eat mainly meat and hunt their prey.
Causal Relationships	A relationship between one phenomenon or event and another
Celestial Body	A natural object which is located outside of Earth's atmosphere, such as the Moon, the Sun, an asteroid, planet, or star.
Chemical Change	A usually irreversible chemical reaction resulting in the formation of at least one new substance:

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Circulatory System	The circulatory system is the network of organs (including the heart, lungs and blood vessels) and vessels that allows the flow of blood, nutrients and oxygen around the body.
Classifying	To sort things into different groups.
Comparative tests	A comparison between two or more particular things in order to get a measurable assessment
Components	The parts of an electrical circuit , which have a specific use. E.g - buzzers, motors etc.
Complete Circuit	A complete circuit is a closed loop for electricity to travel around
Condense/ Condensation	Condensation is to turn from a gas into a liquid. In the water cycle, the evaporated water in the air cools and turns back into a liquid.
Conductor	A conductor is an object that allows electricity to flow through it easily. Objects made of metal are good conductors.
Consumer	Within a food chain, a consumer consumes a producer (usually a plant) or another consumer by eating it. Consumers can be primary, secondary, tertiary, etc consumers depending on their position in the food chain. Consumers are also called predators of the animals they eat; animals eaten by other animals are prey.
Controlled Variables	Quantities that a scientist wants to remain constant, and then must be observed them as carefully
Cornea	This is the layer that covers the front of your eye. It is clear like glass and it has no blood vessels in it. It focuses the light that is coming in through it, and with the lens it makes sure that the image that reaches the back of the eye is in focus.
Crustacean	An arthropod of the large, mainly aquatic group Crustacea, such as a crab, lobster, shrimp, or barnacle.
Crystals	Crystals form when the liquid rock from inside the earth cool and harden. Sometimes crystals form when liquids underground find their way into cracks and slowly deposit minerals. Most of the earth's crystals were formed millions of years ago.
Current	Current is the amount of electricity flowing through a circuit. It is measured in amps.
Data Logger	A data logger (also datalogger or data recorder) is an electronic device that records data over time using built in temperature, light and sound sensors.
Deceleration	The opposite of acceleration - Deceleration is the gradual slowing down of speed.
Deciduous trees	Deciduous trees are those that shed their leaves in winter; their leaves are usually wide and flat.
Deforestation	Deforestation is the clearing of trees, transforming a forest into cleared land.
Dependent variables	The things that the scientist focuses his or her observations on to see how they respond to the change made to the independent variable. This is what we are observing and measuring. It is called the "dependent" variable because we are trying to figure out whether its value depends on the value of the independent variable.

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Digestion/Digestive system	The digestive system is made up of all the organs that help the body break down and process the food we eat (mouth, oesophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, small intestine, large intestine, anus, gallbladder)
Dissolve/Dissolving	Dissolving is a way of mixing a solid and a liquid. When a solid dissolves in a liquid it creates a solution.
Distillation	Distillation is a process that can be used to separate a pure liquid from a mixture of liquids.
Dwarf Planet	The objects called dwarf planets are similar to the solar system's eight planets but are smaller. roundish objects that orbit the Suns.
Eclipse	An eclipse occurs when one object in space blocks an observer from seeing another object in space. From Earth there are two main types of eclipses: solar eclipses and lunar eclipses.
Electricity	Electricity is a form of energy caused by electrons moving about.
Environment	The conditions or surroundings in which people and animals live.
Evaporate/ Evaporation	Evaporation is the process by which a liquid, when heated, changes into a gas and rises into the air. Evaporation is part of the water cycle as water from the earth's seas and oceans evaporates when is heated by the sun's rays.
Evergreen Trees	Evergreen trees (conifers) are those that keep their leaves all year around; they often have leaves shaped like needles.
Evolution	Evolution is the process of change to animal and plant species over long periods of time, or how plant species and animals have developed from generation to generation.
Fair Test	A fair test is a controlled investigation used to answer a question in a scientific way.
Fertilise	To provide a plant with pollen to bring about fertilisation.
Filtering/Filtration	Filtering is a method of separating mixtures of solids and liquids.
Flexible	An object that can bend and snap back readily without breaking
Flowering Plants	Any plant that produces flowers and fruit.
Food Chain	A food chain is a diagram that shows us how animals are linked by what they eat.
Food Webs	A food web is a set of linked food chains.
Forces	Forces are the pushes and pulls which act on our bodies and the things around us to make things move and stop moving. They are measured in Newtons
Fossils	Fossils are the preserved remains of plants or animals. For such remains to be considered fossils, scientists have decided they have to be over 10,000 years old.
Freezing	Freezing is the process of changing a liquid into a solid.
Friction	Friction is a 'sticking' force – the resistance that a surface or object encounters when moving over another surface or object. Air resistance, water resistance and surface resistance are kinds of friction.

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Fungi	Fungi are a group of living organisms which are classified in their own kingdom. This means they are not animals, plants, or bacteria. Unlike bacteria, which have simple cells, fungi have complex eukaryotic like animals and plants.
Fuse	Fuses protect electrical circuits and appliances. The fuse breaks the circuit if a fault in an appliance causes too much current flow. This protects the wiring and the appliance if something goes wrong. The fuse contains a piece of wire which melts easily. If the current going through the fuse is too great, the wire heats up until it melts and breaks the circuit.
Gas	Gas is one of the three states of matter on Earth. A gas can flow, expand and be squeezed.
Gears	Gears are wheels with teeth that slot together, When one gear is turned the other one turns as well. If the gears are different sizes they can be used to increase the power of a turning force.
Geocentric Model	The geocentric model places the Earth at the center of the universe. Common in ancient Greece, it was believed by both Aristotle and Ptolemy. Most Greeks assumed that the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets orbit Earth. Similar ideas were held in ancient China. The geocentric model was gradually replaced by the heliocentric model
Germination	Germination is the process of a seed starting to grow to create a new plant.
Gestation	Gestation is the period of time that a mammal carries her offspring, or babies, inside her body before giving birth. The length of gestation is different for each type of mammal. Larger animals usually have longer gestations than smaller animals. Human gestation, or pregnancy, lasts about nine months.
Gravity	Gravity is the pulling force acting between the Earth and a falling object. Gravity pulls objects to the ground.
Habitat	A habitat is a home environment for plants and animals or other organisms.
Heliocentric Model	Heliocentric means that the sun is at the centre. A heliocentric system is one in which the planets revolve around a fixed sun. Thus Mercury, Venus, the Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn all revolve around the sun. The moon is the only celestial sphere in this system which revolves around the earth, and, together with it, around the sun.
Herbivore	Herbivores are animals whose diet mostly consists of plants.
Igneous Rock	Igneous rock is one of the three kinds of rock present on Earth. It is formed when magma or lava from volcanoes cools; basalt and granite are both igneous rocks.
Independent variables	The <i>one</i> thing that is changed by the scientist. Why just one? Well, if you changed more than one variable it would be hard to figure out which change is causing what you observe.
Incisor	Incisors are teeth used for biting and cutting food.
Inheritance	Inheritance is why you look similar to you mum or dad. People's bodies have characteristics, like the shape of their nose or the colour of their eyes, and parents pass on these characteristics to their children, this is inheritance.
Insoluble	This is when a solid is unable to dissolve into a liquid.

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Insulator	An insulator is an object that does not allow electricity to flow through it easily. Rubber, paper and some plastics are good insulators.
Invertebrates	Animals who don't have a bony skeleton are called invertebrates; insects, spiders and crabs are invertebrates.
Iris	The iris is the coloured part of your eye. Your iris controls the size of the pupil – the black dot in the centre of your eye – and how much light is let into your eye.
Irreversible Change	An irreversible change is a change that cannot be changed back again. Burning or mixing a liquid with bicarbonate of soda are examples of irreversible changes.
Learned Behaviour	Learned behaviour is something an animal discovers through trial, error and observation. Most learned behaviour comes from the teaching of the animal's parent or through experimentation with its environment.
Lens	The lens helps the cornea to focus light onto the retina. It changes shape (getting thinner or thicker) to make sure that the 'picture' on the retina is as clear as possible.
Lever	One of the most basic forms of a machine, which helps lift heavy objects with much less effort. A lever can be described as a long rigid body with a fulcrum along its length
Life Cycle	A life cycle is the different stages of life for a living thing.
Light	Light is the energy that allows us to see the world. A light source makes light by using another kind of energy (for example heat or nuclear energy).
Liquid	Liquid is one of the three states of matter on Earth. A liquid forms a pool, flows or runs but it can't be stretched or squeezed.
Mains Power	Electricity is made at a power station and travels down large cables to people's houses. This electricity is known as mains power and is very dangerous. Mains electricity is just a big circuit so when you plug in an appliance at home, you complete the circuit from your house to the power station and back again.
Magnet	A magnet is an object that has a magnetic field (an invisible pattern of magnetism). A magnet attracts or repels other items.
Magnetic Force	Magnetic force is an invisible force created by electrons. Magnetic force controls magnetism and electricity.
Magnetic Poles	A magnet's north pole is the end of the magnet attracted to the Earth's North magnetic pole; a magnet's south pole is the end of the magnet attracted to the Earth's South magnetic pole.
Mammals	Animals that are warm-blooded, usually have fur or hair and feed their young with milk from their mother.
Material	Materials are the matter or substance that objects are made from. Examples of materials are metal, plastic, wood, glass, ceramics, synthetic fibres and composites. Different materials have different features, or properties, which make them suitable for different uses.
Matter	Matter makes up our planet and the whole universe. On Earth, all matter exists in one of three different states: solid, liquid or gas.
Measuring Cylinder	Is an instrument that measures the volume of a liquid.

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Mechanisms	Mechanisms work by turning small forces into larger ones, allowing us to perform tasks with more strength or speed. Examples of simple machines are levers, gears, pulleys, wheels and screws.
Melting	Melting is the process of changing a solid into a liquid.
Metamorphic Rock	Metamorphic rocks like slate or marble are formed when other kinds of rock (igneous or sedimentary) are changed due to heat or pressure.
Micro-Habitat	A micro-habitat is is a very specific, small home environment (like a tree or a pond) for plants, animals and insects.
Micro-Organism	A diverse group of minute, simple forms of life that include bacteria, algae, fungi, protozoa, and viruses. Microorganisms are too small to be seen with the naked eye and are normally viewed by means of a microscope
Mixture	Is two or more substances mixed together without actually joining them so that they can be separated again.
Molar	Molars (and pre-molars) are teeth used for grinding and crushing food.
Molten	Molten describes an object that's reduced to liquid form by heating. E.g. molten rock that explodes out of a volcano
Mollusc	Invertebrate animals (such as snails, clams, or squids) with a soft unsegmented body usually enclosed in a calcareous shell; broadly : shellfish.
Moon	A moon is a celestial object that orbits a planet.
Natural Light	Natural sources of light include the sun, stars, fire, and electricity in storms.
Object	Anything that is visible or tangible and is relatively stable in form .
Offspring	Offspring is defined as a human child or animal child, or the children of a family
Omnivore	Omnivores are animals who eat a mixture of plants and meat.
Opaque	Things are opaque if light cannot pass through them.
Optic Nerve	The nerve that passes from the retina to the brain
Orbit	The curved path taken by an object that moves round another object like a planet around the Sun.
Organic Matter	Organic matter (or organic material) is matter that has come from a recently living organism.
Organism	(of animal, plant) a section or piece resembling a living creature in behaviour or structure.
Oxygen	Oxygen is the most common chemical element found on or in Earth. It is one of the main elements that make up air, and it is necessary for the survival of all plants and animals.
Particles	The extremely tiny parts (substances) that scientists believe everything is made up of.
Periscope	A periscope is an instrument people use to look at things from a hidden position.
Photosynthesis	Photosynthesis is the process plants use to make food from sunlight; it also requires carbon dioxide (from the air), and water (from the soil).

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Pipette	A thin glass or plastic tube used to measure and distribute liquids.
Pitch	Pitch is the quality of a sound. Depending on how fast or slowly something vibrates a sound's pitch will be high or low.
Planet	A planet is a celestial object that orbits a star like our solar system's Sun.
Pollination	To fertilise by the transfer of plant pollen. The wind, birds and bees can pass pollens around.
Pollution	Pollution happens when the environment is contaminated, or dirtied, by waste, chemicals, and other harmful substances. There are three main forms of pollution: air, water, and land.
Population	A group of individuals of the same species occupying a particular area.
Precipitation	Precipitation is rain, sleet, hail and snow, the water droplets which fall from the sky.
Predator	Any animal or other organism that hunts and kills other organisms (their prey), primarily for food.
Prey	An animal that is hunted and killed by another for food.
Producer	Reflection is when light hits the surface of an object and then that light travels to our eyes so we can see. Mirrors catch light rays in front of them and throw it back in the direction it came from.
Properties	A characteristic/ quality of something
Protein	Many foods contain protein but the best sources are beef, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy products, nuts, seeds, and legumes like black beans and lentils. Protein builds, maintains, and replaces the tissues in your body.
Puberty	The name for the time when your body begins to develop and change as you move from a child to an adult.
Pupil	The pupil of the eye is the black circle in the center of the iris
Pulleys	A simple machine that reduces the time and energy taken to lift heavy objects. A basic pulley comprises of a wheel on a fixed axle, with a groove along the edges to guide a rope or cable.
Quantitative measurements/data	Quantitative information or data is based on quantities using a recognised measurement.
Qualitative data	Data that cannot be expressed as a number eg gender.
Refute	Proving a statement or theory wrong
Reliability/Reliable	Things that can be taken to be true, normally in experiments you will repeat results to make sure they are reliable/true..
Reflection	Is the change in direction when light or other wave motion rebounds at a boundary between two materials.
Repel	To push back or away by a force, as one body acting upon another The north pole of one magnet will repel the north pole of another.
Reproduce/ Reproduction	The process of producing offspring

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Reptiles	Animals that live mainly on land and lay eggs with soft shell. They have dry, scaly skin and crawls along on their belly and have short legs.
Retina	The retina is the nerve layer that lines the back of the eye, senses light, and creates impulses that travel through the optic nerve to the brain.
Reversible Change	A reversible change is a change that can be changed back again. Melting and heating are examples of reversible changes.
Rigid	Unable to bend or be forced out of shape; not flexible.
Satellite	A satellite is a natural object in space that moves round a planet or star.
Sedimentary Rock	Sedimentary rocks like sandstone or chalk are formed over millions of years when sediments (tiny pieces of rocks and organic matter) are pressed together.
Seedling	A a young plant grown from seed or a young tree before it becomes a sapling
Seed Dispersal	Seed dispersal is the way seeds get from the parent plant to a new place. "Dispersal" means to spread or scatter.
Secondary Source	Information that was created by someone who did not experience first-hand in the events, normally books or articles.
Series Circuit	Simple series circuits are where single wire runs from a battery to a bulb and back again.
Short Circuit	A short circuit is a problem in an electrical circuit where two or more wires that are not supposed to come in contact with each other touch. A short circuit can result in a very high current flowing through the circuit. This high current can destroy components, melt insulation and start a fire.
Solar System	The solar system includes the Sun and all the objects that orbit around it due to its gravity, including Earth.
Solid	Solid is one of the three states of matter on Earth. A solid can hold its shape.
Solidify	When a material becomes a solid.
Solvent	The solvent is the substance that dissolves the other substance. In the example above, the water is the solvent.
Soluble	When a substance dissolves into another substance
Solute	The solute is the substance that is being dissolved by another substance.
Solution	A solution is a specific type of mixture where one substance is dissolved into another.
Sound	Sound is created when something vibrates and sends waves of energy (vibration) into our ears.
States of Matter	Matter makes up our planet and the whole universe. On Earth, all matter exists in one of three different states: solid, liquid or gas. Depending on its temperature, matter can change state; heating, cooling, evaporating and condensation are ways in which a material changes state
Substance misuse	Substance misuse is the harmful use of substances (like drugs and alcohol) for non-medical purposes

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Suitability	To see if something is appropriate e.g suitability of materials - is it suitable to make wellies out of wood?
Sun	A sun is a star, a giant ball of hot gas. Our Sun makes life possible on Earth.
Systematically working / working systematically	To work and carry out investigations in a clear, planned and methodical way.
Terminal	One of the points at which you can connect wires in an electrical circuit positive/negative terminal of a cell/battery
Thermometer	An instrument used to measure temperature.
Translucent	Almost transparent; allowing some light to pass through - it is semi-transparent
Transparent	Things are transparent if most light can pass through them.
Transpiration	Transpiration is the process where plants absorb water through the roots and then give off water vapor through pores in their leaves
Variables	The things that can change during an experiment. Something that can vary during an experiment.
Variation	Variation is the difference in genes between individuals or groups of individuals or animals.
Vertebrates	Vertebrates are animals with backbones / skeletons and include amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles.
Vibrations	The motion or movement of particles. Sounds are made when objects vibrate. The vibration makes the air around vibrate, and the air vibrations enter your ear. You hear them as sounds. You cannot always see the vibrations, but if something is making a sound, some part of it is always vibrating.
Voltage	Voltage is the amount of electrical energy used. It is measured in volts.
Water Cycle	The water cycle is the continuous journey water takes from the sea, to the sky, to the land and back to the sea.
Water Resistance	Water resistance is the force on objects floating on or moving in water.
Water Vapour	Water vapour is water that is in the form of a vapour, or gas. It is a part of the water cycle. When liquid water is heated to boiling temperature, 100 degrees Celsius, it all turns into vapour. Water vapour can also be produced directly from ice.. Water vapour is found in most of the air.