

Glossary Year 5

Disciplinary vocabulary (the words used when working scientifically)

accuracy	shows how close to the true answer readings are and is improved by taking repeat readings and keeping variables the same
accurate	an adjective used to describe a measurement or observation that is exact
comparative test	an enquiry which identifies a relationship by changing an independent variable and observing a linked change in the dependent variable
conclude/ conclusion	to draw together evidence to find patterns and answers
control variable	a variable that is kept the same to make the test fair
criterion	a rule for evaluating or testing something
data	information (observations and measurements) collected during an enquiry
dependent variable	the variable that is being measured
diagram	a drawing that represents what is happening rather than showing artistic detail
enquiry	a method scientists use to collect evidence to answer questions
evaluate	to consider the results and method of an enquiry to judge how reliable the conclusion is
evidence	information, from observations and measurements, that supports or disproves ideas
explain/ explanation	to give reasons, from scientific knowledge, for observations and conclusions
fair test	an enquiry which identifies a cause-and-effect relationship by measuring a change in an independent variable and a linked change in the dependent variable
independent variable	the variable that is being changed
line graph	a type of chart that displays data points connected by straight lines
model	a representation of a phenomenon or explanation that it is difficult to visualise
observe/ observation	to use senses or instruments to obtain data
pattern	a relationship between variables
precise	exact; the precision of a measurement will depend on the equipment and method used
predict/ prediction	to use what you already know to try to work out what will happen in an enquiry
refute	to use evidence to show that a statement is incorrect
scale	a set of numbered marks made at evenly spaced points
secondary source	a document (or other source) that shares data or information from an enquiry carried out by someone else
support	to use evidence to show that a statement is correct
variable	something that can be changed, measured or observed in an enquiry

Conceptual vocabulary (the Physics, Biology or Chemistry words)

abdomen	the lower part of the human torso
absorb/ absorbent	to take in fluid
Adam's apple	the visible lump in a man's caused by the voice box
air resistance	a contact force acting on all objects that are moving through air, whether this is falling, moving along or rising
anther	the end of the stamen which produces pollen
asexual	when an organism can reproduce by itself
axis	an imaginary line that a body (e.g. a planet or moon) rotates around
breasts	the soft organs on female chest which produce milk after a baby is born
breeding	the mating of animals and the production of offspring
brittle	easily broken if pressure is applied
brood	a family of birds or other young animals produced at one hatching or birth
cartilage	a tough, white tissue that forms part of the skeleton of humans and other animals
carbon dioxide	a gas in the air
carpel	female reproductive part of a flowering plant, which contains an ovary, style and stigma
childhood	between ages 2 and 12 in human life cycle
compost	a mixture of decaying organic matter, used for fertilising soil
contact force	where the object providing the force is touching (in contact with) the object it is moving
contamination	when something clean gets mixed with something dirty, making it unclean or unsafe
crystal/ crystalline	a solid material that has flat surfaces which form geometric shapes
cutting	a method of propagation in which a part of a plant is used to form its own roots
dark/darkness	the absence of light
decompose	the process where bacteria and worms break down natural materials into tiny pieces that help new plants grow
dissolve	a solid breaks down and combines with a liquid forming a mixture
ductile	can be stretched or rolled until very thin
durable	able to withstand wear, pressure or damage
egg	an oval or round object laid by a female bird, reptile, fish, or invertebrate, usually containing a developing embryo
elastic/ elasticity	able to stretch, bend or twist without breaking and then return to original form
electrical conductor	a material that allows electricity to flow through it
electrical insulator	a material that does not allow electricity to flow through it
embryo	an animal in the early stages of development
evaporate/ evaporation behind	to change from liquid to gas; a process used to remove liquid from a mixture leaving the solid behind
female	the sex that can bear offspring or produce eggs following fertilisation

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fertilisation	the joining of a male reproductive cell with a female reproductive cell to produce a new organism
filament	the stalk of a stamen
filter	to use a special tool or process to separate materials
flexible	able to bend easily without breaking
flower	the part of a plant which produces seeds
force	a push or pull
force meter	a piece of equipment that measures a force
fragile	delicate; easily broken if not handled with care
friction	a contact force that makes it harder to move an object across a surface or slows down an object moving over a surface
fulcrum	the point about which a lever turns
gears	a simple mechanism, consisting of wheels that have teeth that slot together with the teeth on another gear
genetic	relating to genes or heredity
genitals	external human reproductive organs
gestation	the time between egg fertilisation and giving birth
gestation (human)	the time a baby grows in the uterus of a mother
gravity	a non-contact force that pulls an object towards the centre of the Earth
hatch	cause a young animal to emerge from an egg
hygiene/ hygienic	being clean to stay healthy
impact	the force produced when two objects collide
impermeable	not allowing fluid to pass through
infancy	between ages 0 and 2 in human life cycle
insoluble	a material that does not dissolve in a liquid
large intestine	a wider tube leading from the small intestine; this is where water is absorbed into the blood
larva	immature form of an animal
larynx	the part in our throat that helps us make sounds and stops food from going into our lungs
lever	a simple mechanism, consisting of a rigid arm that turns about a fulcrum, which makes it easier to move a load
life cycle	the series of changes in the life an animal or plant
light source	something, natural or artificial, that produces its own light
liquid	a state of a material where it flows freely and takes the shape of its container
load	a heavy object that is being moved
magnetic	able to be attracted by a magnet
magnetism	the force of a magnet to attract
male	the sex that can fertilise females
malleable	can be shaped when pressure is applied
mammal	an animal (vertebrate) that is covered in hair or fur; the female gives birth to live young and feeds her babies on milk from her own body
mechanism	a device that makes it easier to move something

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menstruation/ having a period	a monthly process where women's bodies release blood from the uterus out of the body through the vagina
metamorphosis	when an animal changes from one form into another
moon	a natural satellite that orbits a planet
Newton (N)	the unit of measurement of a force
non-contact force	a force which acts on an object without coming physically in contact with it
non-reversible	a material change that cannot be reversed; new materials are produced as part of the change process
oesophagus	the tube connecting the mouth to the stomach
opaque	the property of blocking light by absorbing or reflecting all of the light that falls on it
oppose	to move in a direction that is the opposite direction of another movement
orbit	to move in a regular path around another object (verb); the path taken when orbiting (noun)
ovary	part of the carpel which contains ovules
ovule	the female part of the plant where the seed begins to grow
penis	the male reproductive organ used for sperm transfer and peeing
permeable	allowing fluids to pass through it
pivot	to turn
planet	a near-spherical body with a predictable orbit around a star
pollen	fine, yellow powder made by the anthers of flowering plants to help them make new plants
pollination	the movement of pollen from the anther to the stigma of another plant
pollinator	an animal which carries out pollination
pregnancy	when a woman's body is growing a baby inside her uterus
propagation	producing new plants without seeds
property	a characteristic of a material
propagation	producing new plants without seeds
puberty	the change from child to adult in human life cycle
pubic hair	hair growing in the groin around the genitals
pulley	a mechanism used for lifting heavy objects by applying force at one end of a rope which passes over a wheel
pupa	an insect in its inactive immature form between larva and adult, for example a chrysalis
react/reaction	two or more materials mixed together change to produce new materials
reproduction	the process by which living things make more of their own kind
reversible	a material change where all materials involved can be changed back to their original state,
rotate	to spin or turn in a circle around a fixed point or axis
runner	a horizontal stem that grows along the soil's surface and propagates by producing roots and shoots
saturated	when no more solid can be dissolved into a liquid
seed dispersal	the movement of seeds away from the parent plant
separate/ separating	the process of taking apart a mixture of dry or wet and dry materials
shadow	a darker region where some or all of the light has been blocked by an object

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sieve	to separate solid materials from a mixture
small intestine	a long tube connecting the stomach to the large intestine; this is where nutrients are absorbed into the blood
sodium polyacrylate	a super absorbent -material
solar system	collective term for the Sun, the planets that orbit it, plus any moons and other natural bodies within it
solid	a state of material which retains its shape unless a force is applied to it; solids have a constant volume
soluble	a material that dissolves in liquid to form a solution
solution	a mixture containing solids that have dissolved in a liquid
species	a group of living things that can mate with one another but not with those of other groups
stamen	male part of a flowering plant made up of a filament and an anther
star	a huge gas body that generates light and heat; some stars have been observed as having planets orbiting them; they are suns at the centre of their own solar systems
stigma	the top of the carpel which takes in pollen
stomach	the organ that receives food that has been swallowed and begins to digest it
style	the part of the carpel that leads from the stigma to the ovary
sun	the star at the centre of our solar system
sweat	liquid secreted by the skin
teenage	between ages 13-19 in human life cycle
testicles	the male reproductive organ which produces sperm
thermal conductor	a material that transmits heat well
thermal insulator	a material that does not transmit heat well
thorax	middle part of an insect's body
transparent	the property of allowing almost all light that falls on it to pass through, enabling a clear view of what lies behind it
tuber	a fleshy underground stem or root
umbilical cord	the cord which connects a baby to the mother so they can receive oxygen and nutrients whilst growing in the uterus
uterus	the female reproductive organ in which a baby grows
vagina	the tube connecting the outer area of the female body (vulva) to the uterus
viscosity/ viscous	how fast or slowly a liquid will flow
water resistance	a contact force which slows down an object moving through water due to the water pushing back against the object as it moves
wear and tear	deterioration of materials over time due to weathering or regular use
year	the length of time it takes a planet to complete one full orbit of its sun (its orbital period)