

Glossary Year 4

Disciplinary vocabulary (the words used when working scientifically)

accurate	an adjective used to describe a measurement or observation that is exact
bar chart	a diagram which displays information (data) by using rectangular bars of different heights
branching key	a way of sorting a small number of items using yes/no questions
Carroll diagram	a chart used to classify objects using two or more criteria
classify	to organise things into scientific groups
comparative test	a science enquiry to compare different materials or events
conclude/ conclusion	to draw together evidence to find patterns and answers
control variable	a variable that is kept the same
data	information (observations and measurements) collected during an enquiry
data logger	a device using sensors to make measurements, including sound, light and temperature
degree Celsius (°C)	a unit of temperature
diagram	a drawing that shows the parts of something or how the parts work together
enquiry	a method scientists use to collect evidence to answer questions
evaluate	to consider how well something has been done
evidence	information, from observations and measurements, that supports or disproves ideas
explain/ explanation	to give reasons, from scientific knowledge, for observations and conclusions
fair	when everything is kept the same except the thing that is being compared
fair test	an enquiry to find out how changing one variable affects something else
identify	to know and say what something is
identifying and classifying	an enquiry to identify or test for features to distinguish between different things
interval	the distance between two readings
investigate	to find out more about a process or object by measuring or observing it
measure/ measurement	to use equipment to find the size or weight of something on a numbered scale
model	something to show how a system or process works
observe/ observation	to use senses or instruments to obtain data
observing over time	an enquiry where observations are made over a fixed period of time
pattern	a relationship between variables
predict/ prediction	to use what you already know to suggest what might happen in an enquiry
rank	to put things in an order
refute	to use evidence to show that a statement is incorrect
research	to find information

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scale	a set of numbered marks made at evenly spaced points
sensor	a device that detects and responds to certain changes in the environment
sequence	an arrangement of numbers or processes in a particular order
support	to use evidence to show that a statement is correct
temperature	a measure of how hot or cold something is, measured in degrees Celsius
test	to carry out a science enquiry to find something out
thermometer	a piece of equipment used to measure temperature
variable	something that can be changed, measured or observed in an enquiry
Venn diagram	a diagram where circles are used to group things
volume	how much space an object or material takes up
weight	a measure of how heavy an object is

Conceptual vocabulary (the Physics, Biology or Chemistry words)

air	the invisible gas surrounding the Earth
amphibian	an animal (vertebrate) that lives in water or on land but must return to the water to reproduce
annelid	an invertebrate group with segmented bodies, no legs, no antennae, usually have bristles although these may be too small to see
anus	the muscle which is relaxed in order to release poo
arachnid	an invertebrate group with eight jointed legs, no wings and two body parts: head and abdomen
battery	a component that can be used to provide electricity
biodegradable	an adjective used to describe a material that breaks down or decays naturally through the action of micro-organisms
bird	an animal (vertebrate) that has feathers and lays eggs with hard shells
boil	to change from liquid to gas, when the liquid is heated to a specific temperature known as its boiling point; occurs throughout the liquid
boiling point	the temperature at which a liquid turns into a gas
bubble	a ball of gas within a liquid
bulb	a device that requires electricity to light up
buzzer	a component that makes a sound
canine	a curved, pointed tooth
carbon dioxide	a gas in the air
carnivore	an animal which only eats other animals (meat)
cell (electricity)	the scientific name for a single battery
change of state	moving between solid, liquid and gas as a result of heating or cooling
chemicals	tiny substances that all materials are made of; they each have specific properties
circuit	the circular arrangement of components required to enable electricity to flow
closed circuit	a circuit that creates a complete loop so the electricity can flow
cloud	a visible group of small droplets of water or ice floating in air
cold-blooded	unable to regulate their own body temperature and so it changes with the surroundings
compost	a mixture of decaying organic matter, used for fertilising soil

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compress	to make something smaller by squeezing it
condense/ condensation	to change from gas to liquid
connection points	the places on electrical components where wires can be attached
constipation	having hard, dry poo that is difficult to pass
consumer	a living thing which has to eat other animals or plants to gain its food
crustacean	an invertebrate group with ten or more pairs of jointed legs, no wings, three body parts (head, thorax and abdomen) protected by a harder outer shell, a segmented body and two pairs of antennae; most live in water
decay	the rotting of once-lived things through the action of bacteria and fungi
decibel	the unit of measurement for sound, abbreviated as dB
deciduous	the group of plants containing trees which lose all of their leaves in the autumn
decompose	the process where bacteria and worms break down natural materials into tiny pieces that help new plants grow
decomposer	a living thing that breaks down things that once lived
dehydrated	when a living body has not had enough water
depend	to rely on something from an outside source in order to live
diarrhoea	liquid poo
diet	the kind of food an animal usually eats
digestion	the process of breaking down food into smaller parts so the body can use it for energy and growth
electrical appliance	an object that needs electricity to do its job
electrical component	an object making up part of a circuit
electrical conductor	a material that allows electricity to flow through it
electrical insulator	a material that does not allow electricity to flow through it
electricity	what is required to make an electrical appliance work
energy	the power to be active (in context of food and nutrition)
environment	the natural world of land, sea, air, plants and animals
evaporate/ evaporation	to change from liquid to gas; occurs at the surface of the liquid
evergreen	the group of plants containing trees which appear to have leaves all year round
exoskeleton	an external supporting structure for the body of a living thing
expand	to change in shape and volume to fill a space
extinct	a type of animal that no longer exists
filter	to use a special tool or process to separate materials
fish	an animal (vertebrate) which lives in water and has gills and fins
flexible	able to bend easily without breaking
flower	the part of a plant which produces seeds
flowering plant	a plant that produces flowers and fruit

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food chain	a series of living things where each one is food for the next
food web	a network of food chains
fossil	the preserved remains or trace of any once-living thing
freeze	to change from liquid to solid, due to cooling (used at lower temperatures)
freezing point	the temperature at which a liquid becomes a solid
fungi	a group of living things including mould, mushrooms and yeast
gas	a state of a material where it changes in shape and volume to fill the space it is in; gases flow
granule/ granular	a small piece or grain
habitat	a natural environment where an animal or plant finds the things it needs to live and grow
hardness	how resistant a material is to scratching (not how easily it breaks)
heat-sensitive	responsive to changes temperature
helium	a gas that is lighter than air and doesn't have any colour, taste or smell
herbivore	an animal that only eats plants
ice	water in a solid, frozen state
incisor	a sharp front tooth
insect	an invertebrate group of small animals with bodies divided into three parts, with three pairs of jointed legs, usually one or two pairs of wings and one pair of antennae
invertebrate	an animal that has no internal backbone
jaw	the bone in which teeth grow
large intestine	a wider tube leading from the small intestine; this is where water is absorbed into the blood
liquid	a state of a material where it flows freely and takes the shape of its container
mains	electricity that can be used by plugging an electrical device into a socket
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
material	the substance something is made of
mechanical	parts moving together
melt	to change from a solid state to a liquid state
melting point	the temperature at which a solid become a liquid
micro-organism	any living thing too small to be viewed by the unaided eye
milk teeth	the first set of teeth
molar	a large, flat tooth
mollusc foot	an invertebrate group of soft-bodied animals with no legs, no segments, no wings, a muscular and most have tentacles and shells
motor	a component that has a part that turns
myriapod	an invertebrate group of typically small animals with two body parts (head and abdomen, which has many segments), more than nine pairs of legs, with each segment having one or two pairs of legs, and one pair of antennae; they live on land
nutrient	a substance that is essential for life and health
oesophagus	the tube connecting the mouth to the stomach
omnivore	an animal that eats both plants and other animals
opaque	the property of blocking light by absorbing or reflecting all of the light that falls on it

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open circuit	a circuit that does not create a complete loop, so the electricity cannot flow
organic	made from the remains of living things
organism	a living thing
oxygen	a gas in the air which most living things need to survive
palaeontologist	someone who studies fossils
pitch	how high or low a sound is; in music, what note it is
pollution	the introduction of harmful, non-biodegradable materials into the environment
powder	fine, loose grains that are made when a solid material has been ground/crushed
predator	an animal that hunts or catches other animals to eat
prey	an animal that is hunted, killed and eaten by another animal
producer	a living thing, such as a plant, which makes its own food
property	a characteristic of a material
rain	drops of water which fall to Earth when clouds become saturated with water droplets
rectum	the part of the large intestine where poo is stored
recycle	to turn waste materials into new materials and objects
reptile	a cold-blooded animal (vertebrate) which has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land
saliva	a liquid in the mouth that helps us to swallow and aids digestion
seed	a plant part from which a new plant germinates and grows
skeleton	a structure that provides support, shape and protection for the body of a living thing
small intestine	a long tube connecting the stomach to the large intestine; this is where nutrients are absorbed into the blood
snow	water in clouds that is frozen and falls to Earth as crystals
soil	the top layer of the Earth's surface; a mixture of bits of rock , and remains of living things that have died
solid	a state of a material which retains its shape unless a force is applied to it; solids have a constant volume
solidify	to change from liquid to solid, due to cooling (used at higher temperatures)
sound	vibrations that can be detected by the ear
sound source	an object creating a sound by vibrating
steam	water in a gas state
stomach	the organ that receives food that has been swallowed and begins to digest it
switch	a component that turns another component on or off, by opening or closing a circuit, controlling whether the electricity can flow or not
transparent	the property of allowing almost all light that falls on it to pass through, enabling a clear view of what lies behind it
vertebrate	an animal that has an internal backbone for support
vibrate/ vibration	to move backwards and forwards at high speed without changing location
viscous	having a thick, sticky consistency
volume	the loudness of a sound
vomit	partly digested food ejected from the stomach
warm-blooded	having a body temperature that does not change whatever the surrounding temperature
water vapour	water in a gas state; slightly cooler than steam and appears as a mist or fog