Understanding Science glossary

absorb	take in, such as when a soft **material** takes in **sound** and does not let it pass through
adapted	having features to help it to survive
air	the **mixture** of different sorts of **gas** that is all around us
air resistance	**friction** caused when something moves through the **air**
appliances	machines that use mains electricity
asexual reproduction	**reproduction** where there is only one parent
attract	pull towards each other
average	to work out an **average**, you add together your list of numbers and then divide the total by the number of items in the list
axis	the imaginary line that the **Earth** spins around; the **Moon** also spins on its axis
balanced diet	a **diet** that gives you the right foods for energy and growth and keeps you **healthy**
bar chart	a chart showing the numbers of things, using bars
battery	two or more **cells** used together
blood	red **liquid** that carries food around your body
blood vessels	tubes that **blood** moves through (veins and arteries)
boiling	describes a **liquid** that is turning into a **gas** as fast as possible – this happens at a fixed **temperature** and you can see bubbles in the liquid
bones	hard parts inside your body that make up your **skeleton**
burning	an **irreversible change** that gives out heat
carnivore	an animal that eats only other animals
cell	part of a circuit that provides electricity (the correct scientific name for just one **battery**)
circuit diagram	a way of showing a circuit with symbols so it is easy to see how the components are joined together
circulatory system	your **heart** and **blood vessels**
component	part of a circuit, such as a **cell**, switch or bulb
conclusion	what you have found out in an **investigation**
condensation	when a **gas** turns into a **liquid** or the tiny drops of water that form on cold surfaces
condensing	a **gas** turning into a **liquid**
conductor	something that lets electricity flow through it
consumers	animals that eat plants or other animals
decayed	something that has rotted
diet	the different foods that you eat
digest	break up food so your body can use it
digestive system	the parts of the body that help to **digest** your food
dispersed	spread out, as when seeds are **dispersed** from the parent
dissolve	break up into very tiny pieces when mixed with water
drug	a substance that changes the way your body works

Understanding Science glossary

Earth	the **planet** that we live on
electrical circuits	a complete loop for electricity to flow around
evaluate	decide how accurate or reliable your results are – this might depend on whether or not you have done a **fair test** and if you used the correct instruments for measuring
evaluation	where you say how good your **investigation** was and whether or not it was a **fair test**
evaporation	when a **liquid** turns into a **gas**, which can happen at any **temperature**
evidence	information used to answer a scientific question, which can include observations and measurements
evolution	a change in living things over time
exercise	running or other activity that makes your **heart** beat faster
extinct	when a kind of animal no longer exists
fabric	cloth made from a **material**, such as cotton or wool
faeces	the waste part of food that has not been **digested**
fair test	an **investigation** where you only change one factor
fertilisation	when a pollen grain joins an ovum in a flower
filtering	using filter paper to separate particles that do not **dissolve** from water
food chain	a way of showing what eats what
forcemeter	an instrument containing a spring that is used to measure **forces**
forces	pushes or pulls
fossil	the shape of a dead **organism** preserved in **rock**
freezing	when a **liquid** changes to a **solid** as its **temperature** falls; for example, water changing to ice
friction	a **force** that slows down moving objects
gas	a **material** that is invisible, is easy to squash and spreads out to fill the container it is in
gears	wheels with teeth on them that can be used to change the size of a **force**
germination	when seeds start to grow
grains	the tiny pieces that **rock** is made from
gravity	a **force** that pulls everything towards the **Earth**
habitat	the place where an **organism** lives
healthy	when you are not ill and you feel good
heart	a muscle that pumps **blood** around your body
herbivore	an animal that only eats plants
image	something that you can see in a **mirror**
impermeable	does not let water run through it (the opposite to **permeable**)
inherit	when a characteristic or feature is passed on from parents to offspring
insulator	something that does not let electricity flow through it
invertebrates	animals that don't have a backbone

Understanding Science glossary

investigating	finding the answer to a scientific question
iron	a metal that is **magnetic**
irreversible change	a change that cannot be reversed, such as cooking or burning
joints	joins between **bones** in your **skeleton** that can bend
key	a set of questions to help us to identify different **organisms**
large intestine	where water is removed from food in your body
lever	a long bar or rod that rests on a **pivot**; it can be used to change the size of a **force**
life cycle	all the changes that happen to animals or plants as they get older and **reproduce**
lifestyle	the things you do every day
light source	something that makes its own light, such as the **Sun**, a light bulb or a candle
line graph	a graph with a line drawn through the points
liquid	a **material** that flows; for example, water
magnet	something that can **attract iron** and can attract or **repel** another **magnet**
magnetic material	a **material** like **iron** or steel that can be **attracted** by a **magnet**
mains electricity	powerful electricity that is supplied through sockets in the wall
material	everything is made of a **material** – glass, wood and metal are all different materials – which can be a **solid**, a **liquid** or a **gas**
medicine	a **drug** that makes you feel better if you are ill
melting	when a **solid** changes to a **liquid** as its **temperature** rises; for example, ice changing to water
melts	when a **solid** changes to a **liquid**
micro-organisms	tiny **organisms**, sometimes called microbes
mirror	something that can **reflect** light very well – you can see an image of something in a **mirror**
mixture	different things jumbled up together
model	something to help us think about things that are difficult to understand
molten	**melted** and in **liquid** form
Moon	a sphere that **orbits** around the **Earth**
moon	a sphere that moves around one of the other **planets**
muscles	parts of your body that move your **bones**
natural	a **natural material** is something we can use directly, such as wood or stone
newtons	the units used for measuring **forces** and **weight**
noise	**sounds** that are too loud or are annoying or unpleasant
nutrients	substances that a plant or animal needs small amounts of to keep **healthy** and grow well
nutrition	obtaining substances your body needs by eating food
oesophagus	the tube that joins your mouth to your **stomach**
omnivore	an animal that eats plants and other animals

Understanding Science glossary

opaque	a **material** that blocks light, so an **opaque** material causes a **shadow**
orbit	the verb '**orbit**' means to move around something, just as the **Earth** moves around the **Sun**; the noun '**orbit**' is the name for the path that the Earth follows around the Sun
organisms	any kind of living thing is an **organism**
permeable	lets water run through it
phases of the Moon	the different shapes that the **Moon** appears to be when we look at it from **Earth**
pictogram	a chart that shows the number of things using pictures
pitch	how high or low a **sound** is
pivot	the part of a **lever** that it turns around
planet	a sphere that moves around the **Sun**; for example, the **Earth** is a **planet**
pollination	when pollen from one flower is taken to another flower
predators	animals that kill other animals for food
prediction	what you think you will find out in an **investigation**
prey	an animal that gets eaten by other animals
producers	plants – all plants produce their own food from water, **air** and light
properties	words that describe what a **material** is like
puberty	when your body is changing from a child to an adult
pulley	a wheel that can have a rope or string wrapped around it; **pulleys** can make it easier to lift weights
pulse	the movement of **blood** that you can feel in your wrists or neck
rectum	where **faeces** is stored before you go to the toilet
reflect	when light bounces off something
repel	push away
reproduce	to make a new animal or plant
reversible change	a change that can be made to go backwards, such as **melting** and **freezing**
rock	a hard, strong natural **material** used to build walls, bridges and other things
safety	making sure you are not harmed
saliva	a **liquid** that is added to food in your mouth
scale	the numbers on a measuring instrument
sediments	tiny bits of **rock** formed when larger rocks get worn away
sexual reproduction	**reproduction** that needs a male and a female partner
shadow	a place that light cannot get to because something is blocking the light
sieve	a container with holes in the bottom, used to separate pieces of different sizes
skeleton	all the **bones** in your body
small intestine	where **nutrients** from food are moved into your **blood**
soil	**material** made from bits of **rock** and **organisms** that have **decayed**
solar system	a **star** and the **planets orbiting** around it

Understanding Science glossary

solid	a **material** that is usually hard, keeps the same shape and **volume** and is difficult to squash
solidifying	changing from a **liquid** to a **solid**; for example, by freezing
solution	a **mixture** of water with something **dissolved** in it
sound	a **vibration** that you can hear with your ears
spring	a coil of wire that can be stretched or squashed
star	a huge ball of hot **gas** that gives out heat and light; our **Sun** is a **star**
state	whether something is a **solid**, a **liquid** or a **gas**
stomach	where food is mixed with acid
stretch	to make something longer by pulling it
Sun	a source of light that appears to move across the sky
symbols	simple pictures representing things that are difficult to draw
teeth	hard parts of your mouth that help you to cut and grind up food
temperature	how hot or cold something is
theory	a scientific idea that can be tested
thermal conductor	something that lets heat flow through it easily
thermal insulator	something that does not let heat flow through it easily
thermometer	instrument for measuring **temperature**
translucent	the word describing a **material** that some light can travel through, but you cannot see things clearly through it
transparent	see-through, a **material** that light can travel through easily
variable	something that you could change in an **investigation**
vertebrates	animals that have a backbone (humans are **vertebrates**)
vibrate	move backwards and forwards very quickly
volume	the amount of space something takes up
water cycle	the changes that happen to water when it **evaporates**, forms clouds and rain, then ends up back in the sea
water resistance	**friction** caused when objects move through water
water vapour	water when it is a **gas**
weight	the **force** of **gravity** pulling on something
year	the time it takes for the **Earth** to go once around the **Sun**