

Glossary Year 3

Disciplinary vocabulary (the words used when working scientifically)

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
data	information (observations and measurements) collected during an enquiry
data logger	a device using sensors to make measurements, including sound, light and 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
evidence	information, from observations and measurements that supports or disproves ideas
explain/ explanation	to give reasons, from scientific knowledge, for observations and conclusions
identify	to know and say what something is
identifying and classifying	an enquiry to identify or test for features to distinguish between different things
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
microscope	an instrument that is used to magnify small objects
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 two sets of data
predict/ prediction	to use what you already know to suggest what might happen in an enquiry
research	to find information
sensor	a device that detects and responds to certain changes in the environment
sequence	an arrangement of numbers or processes in a particular order
stopwatch	a piece of equipment used to measure time passing
test	to carry out a science enquiry to find something out
value	a number or measurement

Conceptual vocabulary (the Physics, Biology or Chemistry words)

absorb/ absorbent	to take in fluid
adaptation	a feature of a living thing which helps it to survive in a particular habitat
adapted	suited to survive in a particular habitat
anchor	(verb) to hold something down
attract	to draw something closer

brain	the organ that controls thinking and movement
bright	giving out a lot of light or having high light levels
burr	a type of fruit (seed pod) which has hooks on the outside
calcium	a mineral the body needs to build and maintain strong bones
capture	to catch and hold
carbohydrate	a nutrient which is the body's major source of energy
carpel	the female reproductive part of a flower
conditions	factors that affect a living thing
consumer	a living thing which has to eat other animals or plants to gain its food
contact force	where the object providing the force is touching (in contact with) the object it is moving
crystal/ crystalline	a material that has flat surfaces which form geometric shapes
dark/darkness	the absence of light
diet	the kind of food an animal usually eats
dim	giving out a little light or having low light levels
dispersal	the movement of seeds away from the plant that produced them
durable	able to withstand wear, pressure or damage
energy	the power to be active (in context of food and nutrition)
erosion	the process of wearing away materials by water, wind or ice
fats	nutrients that are a source of energy for the body, produced from animals or plants
fibre	parts of plant-based food that can't be broken down and which help with digestion
flower	the part of a plant which produces seeds
fluid	a material that flows easily and takes the shape of the container that holds it: a liquid or gas
food chain	a series of living things where each one is food for the next
force	a push or pull
fossil	the preserved remains or trace of any once-living thing
fruit	a swollen plant ovary which contains a seed(s)
germinate/ germination	when a seed starts to grow
habitat	a place 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)
heart	the organ in the chest of vertebrates which pumps blood around the body
insect	a small six-legged animal with body in three parts and often with wings
invertebrate	an animal that has no internal backbone
joint	a part of the skeleton where two or more bones are connected
leaf	the part of the plant which absorbs sunlight and produces its food
light	is produced by a light source and makes things visible
light source	something, natural or artificial, that produces its own light
like poles	the same poles i.e. North and North or South and South
lungs	the organs in the chest that are used in breathing
lux	the unit used to measure light intensity, abbreviated lx

magnet	an object that can pull certain types of metals towards it
magnetic	able to be attracted by a magnet
material	the substance something is made of
mineral	a substance needed to keep the body healthy
muscles	stretchy bands that work in pairs to make body parts move
nectar	a sugary, sweet substance produced by the flower
non-contact force	where the force moves something without touching it
North/South pole	the two points in a magnet where the magnetic force is strongest
nutrient	a substance that is essential for life and health
opaque	the property of blocking light by absorbing or reflecting all of the light that falls on it
organ	a body part performing a function
organic	made from the remains of living things
ovary	the part of the carpel which contains ovules
ovule	the female part of the plant where the seed begins to grow
palaeontologist	someone who studies fossils
petal	the part of the flower which protects the flower's insides
pollen	fine, yellow powder made by the male part of the plant
pollination	when pollen is moved from one flower to another
pollinator	an animal which carries out pollination
producer	a living thing, such as a plant, which makes its own food
property	a characteristic of a material
protein	a nutrient which is need for muscle repair and growth
reflect	to send back light
reflective	reflecting back a lot of the light that falls on it making it shiny in appearance
remains	left over parts of an animal or plant
repel	to push something away
ribs	bones around the heart and lungs
ripe	an adjective used to describe a mature fruit whose seeds are developed
rock	naturally occuring material, part of the Earth's surface
roots	the part of the plant which anchors into the soil and absorbs water and nutrients
scent	a smell produced by a flower
sediment	small pieces of rock which fall to the bottom of oceans and lakes
seed	a plant part from which a new plant germinates and grows
sepal	the part of a flower which provides protection when the flower is in bud
shadow	a darker area where some or all of the light has been blocked by an object
skeleton	a structure that provides support, shape and protection for the body of a living thing
skull	the framework of bone that surrounds the brain
soil	the top layer of the Earth's surface; a mixture of bits of rock and remains of living things that have died

spinal cord	the thick cord of nerve tissue inside the spine that runs from the base of the brain to the end of the spine
spine	a series of small bones which hold up the body
stamen	the male reproductive part of a flower
stem	the part of the plant which keeps it upright and transports water from the roots to the rest of the plant
sugar	a type of carbohydrate
sun	the source of sunlight
sunlight	the combination of visible and invisible forms of light (e.g. ultraviolet) produced by the Sun
tendon	a band of tough white tissue that connects a muscle with a bone or other body part
translucent	the property of blocking or scattering some light so that not all of it passes through and there is no clear view of what lies behind it
ultraviolet	a type of light, found in sunlight and not detectable by our eyes, which is harmful to our eyes and skin, abbreviated as UV
vertebrate	an animal that has an internal backbone for support
vitamin	a substance required by the body to grow, function and repair
waterproof	does not let water pass through it
weathering	the effects of weather, breaking down the surface of rocks over time
x ray	a camera that takes pictures of the inside of your body