

Glossary Year 6

Disciplinary vocabulary (the words used when working scientifically)

anomaly	an odd result which does not fit within a pattern of results
branching key	a way of sorting a small number of items using yes/no questions
classify	to organise things into scientific groups
comparative test	an enquiry which identifies a relationship by changing an independent variable and observing a linked change in the dependent variable
control variable	a variable that is kept the same to make the test fair
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
identifying and classifying	an enquiry to identify or test for features to distinguish between different things
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	using 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
pattern seeking	an enquiry looking for a pattern between two variables
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
secondary source	a document (or other source) that shares data or information from an enquiry carried out by someone else
sensor	a device that detects and responds to certain changes in the environment
standard symbol	an image used to represent an object that is recognised by people in different countries
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)

adaptation	a feature of an organism which helps it to survive in a particular habitat
adapted	suited to survive in a particular habitat
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
aorta	the main artery from the heart to the rest of the body
arachnid	an invertebrate group with eight jointed legs, no wings and two body parts: head and abdomen
arteries	blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart
arthropod	an invertebrate group that includes insects, arachnids, crustaceans and myriapods
atrium	the upper chamber on each side of the heart
battery	a component that can be used to provide electricity
bird	an animal (vertebrate) that has feathers and lays eggs with hard shells
blood	red liquid that flows through our bodies and brings oxygen and nutrients to all of the different parts
blood vessels	tubes that carry blood around the body
brain	an organ contained within the skull of all vertebrates; it controls the body's movements and activities and is the centre of thought, memory and feeling
breathe	to draw air into the lungs and let it out
camouflage	the adaptation of the covering of an organism's body that helps it to blend in with the surroundings
capillaries	small blood vessels that carry blood through the tissues of the body
carbohydrate	a nutrient which is the body's major source of energy
carbon dioxide	a gas in the air
carpel	female reproductive part of a flowering plant, which contains an ovary, style and stigma
cell (biology)	a tiny unit of a living thing
cell (electricity)	the scientific name for a single battery
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
cold-blooded	unable to regulate their own body temperature and so it changes with the surroundings
cone	the hard 'egg-shaped' part of a conifer that opens and releases the seeds
conifer	a division of plants that do not have flowers as part of their life cycle
connection points	the places on electrical components where wires can be attached
control variables	the variables that are kept the same to make the test fair
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
dark/darkness	the absence of light
deoxygenated blood	blood which is dark red in colour and has no oxygen in the red blood cells

digestion	the process where food is broken down into nutrients which can be absorbed by the body
echinodermata	a class of invertebrates that have a calcium skeleton and tube feet operated by fluid pressure
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
evolution	the formation of a new species; through many gradual changes and over many millions of years, organisms develop from those that preceded them
extinction	the complete elimination of a species
fats	nutrients that are a source of energy for the body, produced from animals or plants
fern	a division of plants that do not have flowers as part of their life cycle
fibre	parts of plant-based food that can't be broken down and which help with digestion
fish	an animal (vertebrate) which lives in water and has gills and fins
flatworm	a class of invertebrates that have simple, flattened bodies with no blood vessels; for example, tapeworms
flowering plant	a plant that produces flowers and fruit
fossil	the preserved remains of a once-living thing
fungi	the kingdom of living things that contains 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
habitat	a natural environment where an animal or plant finds the things it needs to live and grow
heart	the organ in the chest of vertebrates which pumps blood around the body
heart rate	the number of times the heart beats per minute
hormone	a chemical in the body which causes growth, development or an action
hydrate	to provide water to a body
inherited	when a characteristic is passed on from parents to offspring
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
kidneys	organs which clean the blood by removing waste products in the form of urine
large intestine	a wider tube leading from the small intestine; this is where water is absorbed into the blood
light	is produced by a light source and makes things visible
light ray	a way of showing light travelling from one place to another
light source	something, natural or artificial, that produces its own light
lung capacity	the maximum amount of air your lungs can hold
lungs	the organs that are used for breathing; they allow oxygen to enter the blood
lux	the unit used to measure light intensity, abbreviated lx
malnutrition	lack of adequate nutrition
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
mechanical	parts moving together

migrate	to move from one place to another
mineral	a substance needed to keep the body healthy
mollusc	an invertebrate group of soft-bodied animals with no legs, no segments, no wings, a muscular foot and most have tentacles and shells
monera	a kingdom of living things that contains the simplest form of organisms (single-celled)
moss	a division of plants that do not have flowers as part of their life cycle
mould	a type of fungus that thrives in moist, damp conditions
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
natural selection	the mechanism which drives evolution (sometimes referred to as survival of the fittest)
needle	a narrow, pointed leaf of a conifer
nutrient	a substance that is essential for life and health
nutrition	the process of obtaining and using the nutrients in food needed for good health
offspring	the product of reproduction (babies, seeds)
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
organism	a living thing
oxygen	a gas in the air which most living things need to survive
oxygenated blood	blood which is bright red in colour and has oxygen in the red blood cells
plasma	the yellow liquid part of blood
platelets	tiny pieces in the blood which help clotting when we are cut
predator	an animal that hunts or catches other animals to eat
protein	a nutrient which is need for muscle repair and growth
protista	a kingdom of living things that contains mostly single-celled organisms that do not fit into any other category; most are water-based and can move
pulmonary artery	the blood vessel that carries deoxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs
pulse	the rhythmic bulge in an artery felt when blood is pumped through it
red blood cells	the cells which contain haemoglobin which can carry oxygen in our blood
reflect	to be diverted back from a surface
reflection	an image of an object seen in a mirror or other reflective surface
reflective	reflecting back a lot of the light that falls on it, making it shiny in appearance
reproduction	the process by which living things make more of their own kind
reptile	a cold-blooded animal (vertebrate) which has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land
salt	a mineral that our bodies need in small amounts to function properly
scurvy	a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C
shadow	a darker region where some or all of the light has been blocked by an object
small intestine	a long tube connecting the stomach to the large intestine; this is where nutrients are absorbed into the blood
species	a group of similar organisms which can reproduce and produce fertile offspring

spore	a seed-like cell that allows ferns and mosses to reproduce
stamen	male part of a flowering plant made up of a filament and an anther, which makes pollen
switch	a component that turns another component on or off, by opening or closing a circuit, controlling whether the electricity can flow or not
taxonomy	a way of organising and classifying different living things
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
transparent	the property of allowing almost all light that falls on it to pass through, enabling a clear view of what lies behind it
urine	excess water and waste products released from the body
valve	a flap that allows blood to pass through the heart or a vein in one direction only
variation	a difference between an animal or a plant
veins	blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart
ventricle	the lower chamber on each side of the heart
vertebrate	an animal that has an internal backbone for support
vitamin	a nutrient required by the body to grow, function and repair
volt	the units for voltage
voltage	the measurement of the size of the push sending electricity around a circuit
warm-blooded	having a body temperature that does not change whatever the surrounding temperature
white blood cells	cells in our blood which fight infection