

Science vocabulary and definitions

Year 4

Biology	Physics	Chemistry
---------	---------	-----------

Materials (States of Matter)	
volume	the space that a substance (solid, liquid, gas, or plasma) or shape occupies or contains
capacity	the maximum amount that something can hold – usually ml or l
particles	a tiny amount or small piece of matter
solid	having a firm shape or form that can be measured in length, width and height not like a liquid or a gas
liquid	in a form that flows easily and is neither a solid nor a gas
gas	a form of matter that is neither liquid nor solid. A gas rapidly spreads out when it is warmed and contracts when it is cooled
melt	to change from a solid to a liquid state through heat or pressure
freeze	where a liquid turns into a solid when its temperature is lowered below its freezing point
evaporate	to turn from liquid into gas, pass away in the form of vapour
condense	change or cause to change from a gas or vapour to a liquid
precipitation	rain, snow, sleet, dew etc. formed by condensation of water vapour in the atmosphere

Electricity	
component	Part of an electrical circuit
buzzer	an electrical device that is used to make a buzzing sound
lamp	a device for giving light
switch	a small control for an electrical device which you use to turn the device on or off
conductor	a substance that heat or electricity can pass through or along
insulator	a non-conductor of electricity or heat

Sound	
pitch	the quality of a sound that allows you to label it as “higher” or “lower” to your ear
vibrate	move continuously and rapidly to and fro
sound insulation	is the ability of building elements or structure to reduce sound transmission
source	where something comes from
decibel	a unit of measure of how loud a sound is - dB
sound waves	invisible waves that travel through air, water and objects as vibrations

Animals including Humans (Teeth and Digestion)	
digestion	breaking down ingested food material
saliva	the watery liquid that forms in your mouth and helps you to chew and digest food
incisors	the teeth at the front of your mouth which you use for biting into food
canines	pointed teeth near the front of the mouth of humans and of some animals
pre-molars	two situated on each side of both jaws between the first molar and the canine
molars	the large, flat teeth towards the back of your mouth that you use for chewing food
oesophagus	the part of your body that carries the food from the throat to the stomach
intestine	the tubes in your body through which food passes when it has left your stomach
rectum	final section of the large intestine, finishing at the anus
anus	opening where your bowel movements come out
producer	organisms that make their own food using energy from the sun
consumer	organisms that are unable to make their own energy, and instead rely on the consumption and digestion of producers or another consumer, or both to survive.
predator	an animal that kills and eats other animals
prey	an animal hunted or captured by another for food
invertebrate	a creature that does not have a spine, for example an insect, a worm or an octopus

Living Things and their Habitats	
movement	an act of moving
sensitivity	responding to the external environment
reproduction	when an animal or plant produces one or more individuals similar to itself
excretion	the process of eliminating waste produced from their metabolisms from the body
respiration	a chemical reaction that occurs in all living cells where energy is released from glucose
growth	an increase in something
environment	the external surroundings that affect the survival and development of an organism or population
mammal	is an animal that breaths air, has a backbone and grows hair at some point in their life