

Science vocabulary and definitions

Year 3

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

Rocks	
fossil	a trace or print or the remains of a plant or animal of a past age preserved in earth or rock
soil	the substance on the surface of the earth in which plants grow
igneous	rocks that are formed by volcanic action or intense heat
sedimentary	are rocks formed from sediment. They are deposited over time, and often show layers which can be seen in cliffs
metamorphic	rocks that have had their original structure changed by pressure and heat
permeable	if a substance is permeable, something such as water or gas can pass through it or soak into it
rock	the hard substance which the earth is made up of
deposit	layer of solid material, left or laid down by a natural process
crystals	a special kind of solid material formed when liquids cool and start to harden. They fit together in a repeating pattern
grains	a grain of something such as sand or salt is a tiny hard piece of it

Forces and Magnets	
attract	if one object attracts another object, it causes the second object to move towards it
repel	to force something to move away or apart
poles	the ends of a magnet are called poles – N or S
magnetic	An object that produces a magnetic force called a magnetic field
friction	the resistance of motion where there is contact between two surfaces

resistance	a force which slows down a moving object or vehicle
------------	---

Light	
translucent	if a material is translucent, some light can pass through it
transparent	if an object or substance is transparent, you can see through it clearly
opaque	if an object or substance is opaque, you cannot see through it
reflect	sent back from the surface and not pass through it
shadow	a dark shape on a surface that is made when something stands between a light and the surface
dark	the absence of light
light source	where the light comes from

Animals including humans	
skeleton	the framework of bones in your body
muscle	tissue in the body of animals and humans that moves parts of the body
contract	to make smaller by drawing together; shrink or make tighter
support	to hold something up
protection	the act of protecting or the state of being protected, preservation from injury or harm
movement	the act or process of moving people or things from one place or position to another
nutrition	the process of taking food into the body and absorbing the nutrients in those foods
carbohydrate	is a nutrient that gives you energy, for example bread, potatoes and pasta.
protein	is a nutrient that helps your body to grow and repair itself, for example red meat, yoghurt, beans.
dairy	any foods made from milk products of animals
vitamins	are substances found in foods that our bodies need to work and be healthy, eg Vitamin C found in fruit
minerals	help your body grow, develop, and stay healthy, such as calcium found in milk
fat	is a nutrient that gives you energy and is found in nuts, oils and avocados

Plants	
nutrients	substances that help plants and animals to grow
germinate	if a seed germinates, it starts to grow
pollinate	to pollinate a plant or tree means to fertilise it with pollen. This is often done by insects
disperse	to scatter, separate or spread through a large area
dispersal	is the movement, spread or transport of seeds away from the parent plant