Science Definitions

A	
absorbent	a material that is able to take in and hold liquid
accurate	careful, precise and exact
adaptation	the way in which an animal or plant is suited to the environment in which it lives e.g. polar bears have thick fur coats that insulate them against the freezing temperatures in the Arctic circle
addiction	when someone cannot stop taking harmful substances e.g. nicotine, alcohol, cocaine, heroin
adult	a full-grown animal or plant
aeration	in sewage treatment the process of blowing air bubbles through the waste water in order to help bacteria digest waste matter
aged	a plant or animal that has lived for a long time
air	a mixture of gases present in the atmosphere of the Earth
air resistance	the force that air exerts on a moving object slowing it down
alcoholic	a person who is addicted to the drug alcohol
alive	something that is living, not dead
alternative	one of a number of possibilities
amphibians	A group of animals with backbones with smooth, damp skin that live on land and in water e.g. frogs
anaesthetic gas	a gas used in hospitals to cause a patient to be unconscious during an operation
animal	a living thing that relies on eating for energy
anther	the part of the stamen that produces the pollen
apparatus	equipment necessary for a scientific investigation
appliance	a household device that uses electricity – can be either mains or battery powered
artery	a blood vessel carrying blood away from the heart
ash	a new substance formed when materials burn
astronomy	the study of planets, stars and space
at rest	stationary, not moving
attract	to pull towards
attraction	a pulling force

axis	an imaginary line passing through the centre of a spinning object
B	
baby	a newborn or very young child or animal
bacteria	micro-organisms that can be divided into two groups – harmful or beneficial
balanced diet	a healthy diet that involves eating foods from all the different food groups
balanced forces	when the forces acting on an object are opposite and equal such that the object does not move or moves at a constant speed
bar chart	a comparison of data arranged in bars or columns on a chart
battery	the power source in a circuit made up of two or more cells
beneficial	anything that promotes good health
beneficial bacteria	these bacteria do useful jobs in our bodies and in our environment e.g. the bacteria in our digestive systems that help with the breakdown of food
beaker	a container with a scale on the side used to measure the capacity of a liquid
bell	a device which changes electrical energy to sound energy. A lot of movement energy is also produced
bendy	something that is flexible
bird	an animal with wings and feathers
block	to interrupt the light causing a shadow
blood	the fluid that flows around the body of vertebrate animals
blood vessel	a tube that carries blood around the body
body temperature	about 37 °C
boil	to heat a liquid so that it starts to turn into a gas
boiling point	the temperature above which a liquid becomes a gas. Water boils at 100°C
bone	the hard material that forms the skeleton
brain	the organ that controls the nervous system
break	an interruption in the flow of electricity
breathe	to take air into the lungs and expel it
bud	a part of a plant that will grow into a leaf or flower
bulb	an electrical component which lights up in a circuit
bulb holder	a device for holding a bulb
burning	a chemical change that is irreversible. Burning involves fuel, oxygen and a flame – heat, smoke and ash are produced when things burn

bush	a small plant with lots of branches close to the ground
buzzer	an electrical component that changes electrical energy into sound
C	
calcium	a mineral important for healthy bones
calibrate	to set the graduations on a scale
candle	a piece of wax containing a wick that is burnt to give out light
canine	pointed teeth used for ripping and tearing food
capillaries	tiny blood vessels
carbohydrate	a food group which provides the body with energy
carbon dioxide	a common gas used by green plants when they make energy. The gas that our bodies produce and needs to get rid of by breathing out
carnivore	an animal that eats only meat e.g. tiger, wolf etc.
carpel	together the stigma, style and ovary of a flower form the carpel - the part of the plant where the female sex cells are produced – ova (eggs)
cell	the building blocks of all organisms
cell	the power source in a circuit. Two or more cells make up a battery
centigrade	a scale used to measure temperature written as degrees Centigrade e.g. 20°C
centimetre	a unit of length
chalk	a soft rock
change of state	the process of change from one state of matter to another – this is a reversible change
chart	pictorial representation of changing data
chemical changes	irreversible changes - new chemicals are produced following the change
child	a boy or girl
cigarettes	a small roll of paper filled with tobacco used for smoking
circuit	a circuit is formed when electricity flows through the electrical components
circuit diagram	a diagram that uses conventional symbols to represent the components of an electrical circuit
circuit symbol	a standard picture that is used to represent the components in a circuit
circulation	the process of moving blood around the body
classification	the process of sorting and arranging objects according to observable similarities and differences

classify	to sort things into similar groups
comparison	the act of looking for similarities and differences
compass	a device used to locate directions – the four points of the compass – north, east, south and west
compressed air	air which is filled into tanks under pressure such that it takes up a much smaller space
conclude	to state what you have found out in an experiment or investigation
conclusion	a statement about what you have found out in an experiment or investigation
condensation	the process of change from a gas to a liquid
condense	to change from a gas to a liquid
condition	the different states that apply during an investigation e.g. the temperature, the amount of light etc.
connective tissue	the tough substance that joins bones together
consumer	all animals are consumers – they eat either producers (primary consumers) or other consumers (secondary consumers)
contract	when a muscle tightens it is said to contract
crescent moon	the phase of the moon when the moon appears as a thin curved, piece
criteria	the standards used to make a judgement
crocodile clip	used to join wires onto components
current	a flow of electricity around a circuit
D	
dark	when there is little light and it is difficult to see
data	a set of numbers or information that can be measured or recorded
data logger	an electronic device used to take regular measurements of things like temperature
day or daytime	the time in the day when planet Earth is facing the sun
dead	not alive
decay	the process of rotting of plant and animal material that is caused by bacteria and fungi e.g. tooth decay, composting
decibels	the units that sound is measured in
decomposer	organisms that feed on dead plants and animals and recycle nutrients back into the soil
definition	the meaning of a word or phrase
degrees centigrade	small increments, the graduations of a scale e.g. angles are measured in degrees, temperature is measures in degrees centigrade

dentine	the material making up the main, living part of the tooth
dentist	a person that cares for teeth
dependent variable	the factor that is measured in a fair test
diagram	a stylised picture representing the important parts of a concept
diet	the variety of foods eaten by an animal or human
diffusion	the process of movement of gas particles
digestive system	the system in our bodies that takes food and turns it into a form that can be moved through the blood to provide energy to all parts of the body
disease	illness brought about by infection with micro-organisms
dispersal	the method of moving seeds away from the mature plant – There are four types – wind, water, animal and explosion
dissolving	the process of a substance becoming part of a liquid – this is a reversible change
drainage	a property of soil, whether it allows water to pass through easily or not
drugs	substances that have an effect on the body
dull	not shiny
E	
ear	the organ of the body that is used for hearing
ear canal	the passage between the ear and the ear drum
ear drum	the thin skin within the ear that transmits vibrations to the middle ear
Earth	our planet
ecosystem	a collection of organisms that interact and depend on each other
effervescent	fizzy – giving off a gas e.g. soluble antacid tablets – this is an irreversible change
elastic	a material that is able to go back to its original shape after being pulled
electrical conductor	a material that allows electricity to flow through it e.g. metals
electrical insulator	a material which does not allow electricity to flow through it e.g. wood
electricity	a form of energy that is used to power many devices e.g. lights, computers and televisions
enamel	the hard white material forming the outer part of a tooth
energy	all living things need energy in order to work – to move, grow etc. We eat food in order to provide the body with energy.
equipment	the materials, devices and tools needed for an investigation

evaluation	a statement about how a particular investigation progressed which includes suggestions about how it could have been improved
evaporate	to change from a liquid to a gas
evaporation	the process of change from a liquid into a gas
evidence	the factual findings upon which a conclusion is based
exercise	the process of repeated movements that keep the heart, lungs, bones, joints and muscles working smoothly
explanation	a statement that includes reasons and justifications – it links cause and effect
eye	the organ of the body that is used for seeing
F	
fabric	manufactured cloth made of fibres - sometimes referred to as “material”
factors	the things that can be changed or measured in an investigation – also known as variables
fair test	a test where only one factor changes and all other factors are kept the same
fats	a food group that is stored in the body as a reserve energy store
fertilisation	the joining of a male and female sex cell (e.g. pollen and ova)
filter	to separate fine solid particles from a liquid
flexible	able to bend easily without breaking
floss	a thin thread used to clean between teeth
flowering plants	plants that have flowers in order to reproduce
fluorescent	property of a material that is able to store light energy and then to glow
fluoride	a chemical which hardens the enamel and helps protect the tooth from decay
food chain	the link between a producer and the consumers – e.g. the rose produces food (→)for the greenfly which then becomes food (→) for the ladybird
food web	the connections between different food chains within a particular habitat
force	a push, pull, twist or turn – gravity, friction and upthrust are all examples of forces
force diagram	a diagram which represents forces and the directions they are acting with arrows
forcemeter	a device used to measure forces (sometimes called a Newton meter)
fossil fuel	fuel that comes from the remains of dead animals and

	plants e.g. coal, oil, gas
freeze	to change from a liquid into a solid
freezing	the process of change from a liquid into a solid
freezing point	the temperature below which a liquid becomes a solid – for water this is 0°C
frequency	the number of times a sound wave vibrates in a second
friction	is the force between two moving surfaces
fridge	an electrical device used to keep food cold
fruit	the fleshy parts of the plant containing the seeds
fuel	a source of energy e.g. gas, wood, coal, food
full moon	the phase of the moon when the moon appears as a complete circle
fungi	the group of organisms that includes moulds and mushrooms. Some microscopic fungi can be harmful e.g. athlete's foot fungi, some are useful e.g. yeast
fuse	an electrical component which will burn out in order to break a circuit in an emergency
G	
gap	the unfilled space between particles
gas	one of the three states of matter. Gases move to fill any available space. The particles in a gas are very far apart from each other and move freely. Water vapour is a gas.
generalisation	a statement of how the conclusion from one investigation may be applied to different situations
germ	a popular term for any micro-organism that makes you ill
germinate	to begin the process of growth - when a seed forms a small root and/or shoot
germination	the process of beginning growth for a seed
gold	a precious metal
good hygiene	behaviour that will reduce the risks of infection e.g. washing hands
gram	a unit of weight
granite	a very hard rock
graph	a precise mathematical chart showing changes in data
gravity	the force that causes all objects to fall to the ground
green plants	plants that make food in their leaves using sunlight
group	materials can be grouped according to common properties e.g. metals, plastics, fibres, wood etc.
growth	process of getting larger and becoming mature (plants) or adult (animals)

H	
habitat	the place where animals and plants live e.g. seashore, woodland etc.
hard	a material that is hard to scratch or dent
harmful bacteria	these bacteria can cause illness and disease
hazard	a danger to health and/or life
heart	the muscular organ that pumps blood around the body
heart beat	the rhythmic contractions of the heart muscle
hearing	one of our five senses
heating	the process of increasing the temperature
helium	a gas which is lighter than air which can be used to fill balloons
herbivore	an animal that eats only plants e.g. cow, sheep etc
high pitch	fast, high frequency vibrations give high pitched sounds
hour	a unit of time
hypothesis	a theory – a prediction
I	
ice	the solid state of water
idea	a thought that can be turned into an investigation
identification	to describe and name an object, animal etc. based on observations
illness	the symptoms of a disease, accident or injury
image	the picture formed in a mirror
immunisation	a medical procedure that involves giving a body resistance to certain micro-organisms
impermeable	a material that does not let water through
impure	when a pure substance is contaminated with other materials
incisor	sharp teeth used for biting and cutting food
independent variable	the only factor that changes in a fair test when all other factors are kept the same
infection	the process by which harmful micro-organisms enter the body
insect	an animal that has three distinct parts to their bodies and six legs
insoluble	when a solid does not dissolve in water it is said to be insoluble
insulate	to cover something to keep it warm or cold for longer
interdependence	the pattern of dependence between animals and plants in a

	habitat – how the survival of one species relies on the survival of another in the food chain
interpretation	to come to conclusions based upon the evidence
invertebrate	an animal without a backbone
investigation	an experiment you do to prove or disprove a theory
irreversible	a change that cannot easily be reversed e.g. burning
J	
jaw	the two bones that form the structure of the mouth
joint	the place where two bones are connected to allow movement
justification	the process of giving reasons to support a conclusion
K	
key	a chart that places things in a logical way in order to sort and classify them
kilogram	a unit of weight
L	
leads	the wires used to join electrical components
leaf	the green part of a plant that makes food for the plant
lens	a transparent object that allows light to pass through it but will bend the light on its way through
life cycle	the important stages in the life of an organism
light	a kind of energy that we can see - the glow produced by something hot
light beam	the rays of light that come from a light source – they travel in straight lines
light rays	the beams of light that come from a light source – they travel in straight lines
light source	the place where light begins
limestone	a soft rock
limitations	the conditions that prevent further investigation
line graph	a graph where all the points are joined by a line
liquid	one of the three states of matter. In a liquid the particles are not as close together as in the solid form. Liquids can be poured and take on the shape of the container they are placed in
loudness	the intensity of sound
litre	a unit of capacity
low pitch	slow, low frequency vibrations give low pitched sounds

lubrication	a method to reduce the friction between two surfaces
luminous	property of something that is a light source e.g. a lighted candle
lung	the organ that oxygenates the blood that is then circulated around the body
M	
magnet	an object made usually from iron, nickel or cobalt materials which attracts other objects made from these materials
magnetic	able to be attracted by a magnet
mains	electricity supplied for use in homes and businesses
mammal	the group of vertebrate animals which have a body covering of hair
manmade	any material which is not found naturally
manufactured	when a raw material such as wood is changed into a new material e.g. paper
marble	a hard rock
mass	the amount of material in an object measured in grams (g)
measurement	the accurate recording of change e.g. distance, temperature, time etc
melt	to change from a solid into a liquid
melting	the process of change from a solid into a liquid
melting point	the temperature above which a solid becomes a liquid
metal	a material that conducts electricity
methane	a gas produced by rotting food and vegetable matter – may be used as a fuel
metre	a unit of length
metre stick	a piece of equipment used to measure length
microbe	another word for a micro-organism
micro-organisms	very small living organisms that can only be seen under a high powered microscope
microscope	an instrument that is able to magnify an image
millilitre	a unit of capacity
millimetre	a unit of length
mineral	a substance which is taken out of the ground e.g. iron ore is mined and manufactured into metal products
minute	a unit of time
mirror	a polished surface which reflects light
mixture	a composite of different materials that can be separated by filtering, sieving, evaporation etc.
model	a way of visualising something in science

molar	flat teeth used for crushing and grinding
moon	a large object which orbits a planet. Moons are not sources of light
motor	an electrical component which rotates causing something to turn
mould	a fungi that assists in the process of decay – green moulds are visible on the surface of rotting fruits
multi-cellular organism	an organism that is made up of many cells e.g. humans, insects, fish etc.
muscles	fleshy parts of the body that are joined to bones and work in pairs to make the body move
N	
natural materials	any substances found on Earth that are not man made
natural gas	a gas found under the ground which is used for fuel in homes and businesses
nectar	a sweet liquid produced by flowering plants to attract insects or birds
nerves	the network of connections between the brain and the body
newborn	an animal that has just been born
Newton	the units used to measure forces (N)
nicotine	the addictive drug contained in tobacco products – cigarettes and cigars
night or night time	the time of the day when planet Earth is facing away from the sun
nitrogen	the colourless, odourless gas that forms 70% of the air
nocturnal animal	an animal that is active at night
noise	vibrations that can be heard by the ear
non-living	not alive
non-magnetic	a material that is not attracted to a magnet
non permeable	A material that does not let water through
nose	the organ of the body that is used for smelling
nutrients	minerals that are needed for plant growth. They are dissolved in soil water and are taken in by the plant's root system
nutrition	means food or feeding either by plants or animals
O	
obesity	the state of being extremely overweight
observation	the process of taking notice of changes in objects, events etc.
observe	to look at closely or watch over time to see how something

	changes
odour	the smell of a gas
old	a plant or animal that has lived for a long time
omnivore	an animal that eats both plants and animals e.g. human, gorilla etc
opaque	not see-through. Lets no light through at all
opposite	exactly different from something else in every way
orbit	the circular or elliptical path taken by a moon around a planet or a planet around a star
organ	part of the body with a certain job to do e.g. heart, brain, lungs, kidneys etc
organism	any living creature, plant or animal
outcome	what happens in an investigation
ova	the female sex cells of the plant – singular ovum
ovary	the part of the plant that produces the female sex cells – ova (eggs)
oven	a device used to heat up food in order to cook it
ovenproof	a material which can stand the heat of an oven and will not crack, melt or change
oxygen	a common gas found in the air. It is essential for life. Animals take in oxygen when they breathe. Plants give out oxygen when they make food.
P	
packaging	a covering used to protect food or other objects
parachute	a piece of fabric used to increase air resistance to slow a person down as they drop from an aeroplane to the ground
parallel circuit	an electrical circuit with two or more components such as bulbs connected separately to a source of electricity. Each component can be switched on or off independently of the other.
particle	very small pieces of a material – the particles of a gas are too small to see, even with a microscope
pattern	a special arrangement of data that enables predictions to be made
pebble	a small stone
periscope	a device that uses a series of mirrors to enable the viewer to look around corners
permeable	a material that lets water through
petal	the part of the flower which is often brightly coloured
petri dish	a glass or plastic shallow dish during investigations
phases of the moon	the different shapes of the moon as they appear on Earth

photosynthesis	the process by which a plant makes its own food from sunlight
physical change	a reversible change – no new substances are produced following the change
pie chart	a comparison of data arranged in a circle
pip	the seed inside fruit
pitch	how high or low a sound is. The faster the vibrations the higher the sound
planet	a large object that orbits a star. Planets are not sources of light
plant	a living thing that produces food using water, sunlight and carbon dioxide
plant food	a mixture which is added to soil to give the plant the nutrients it needs
plaque	bacteria (germs) that grow on teeth that are responsible for tooth decay
plastic	a man made material that has many forms and uses
pluck	pulling and releasing a string to make a sound
poles	the ends of a magnet which exert the magnetic force
pollen	grains produced by plants. Each grain contains a male sex cell
pollination	the transfer of pollen from one flower to the stigma of another flower. There are two main agents for pollination – wind and insect
population	the number of members of one particular species in a habitat
porous	a material which lets water through
powder	a solid made up of very small particles
precipitate	the name of a solid produced in some chemical reactions
predator	an animal that catches and eats other animals
prediction	using knowledge to say what you think will happen in an experiment
present	to communicate information in a variety of ways e.g. in tables and graphs
prey	an animal that is eaten by another animal
producer	any green plant that makes its own food by photosynthesis - it is at the start of the food chain producing food for the food chain
property	a characteristic of a material e.g. hard, soft, bendy, shiny etc
protect	to look after something
protein	a food groups which is needed for growth and repair of the body

pull	a force
pulse	the swelling of arteries that can be felt every time blood is pumped through arteries by the heart
pulse rate	is the measure of the number of heart beats per minute
pumice	a light rock produced by volcanoes
pure (substance)	matter that is not a mixture of things
push	a force
pylon	a structure used to hold electrical wires in the air
R	
ray	a beam of light
record	written, drawn, photographic or electronic evidence of investigations
reflect	to bounce light of an object or material
reflection	the process where light “bounces” off a material
reflective	a material that light bounces off making it appear shiny
reflective strip	a band of reflective material often worn at night so that the wearer can be seen
refrigerator	a piece of electrical equipment used to keep food and drinks cold – about 5 degrees centigrade
relax	when a muscle loosens it is said to relax
renewable energy	a source of energy that does not involve the burning of fossil fuels e.g. wind power
repeat measurement	measurements that are taken more than once in order to ensure greater accuracy in an investigation
repel	to push away
reproduce	to make new, young organisms
reproduction	the process of making new, young organisms (flowering plants produce seeds)
reptile	the group of vertebrate animals that have dry scales
repulsion	a force which is pushing objects apart, for example, when two like poles of magnets are moved towards each other
research	to find something out often using secondary sources e.g. books, CD ROMs or the internet
resistor	an electrical conductor that makes it difficult for electricity to flow in a circuit
resources	equipment used in an investigation
respiration	the process of taking in air to the lungs to remove the oxygen for the body
results	the outcomes of an investigation
reversible change	a change that can be easily reversed e.g. freezing water to make ice

revolve	to turn around a point
ribs	the bones protecting the heart and lungs
rigid	does not bend easily
room temperature	about 20°C
root	the part of a plant that keeps it in place and takes in water and minerals
rotate	to turn around a point
rotation	the turning of an object such as the Earth on its axis
rough	a surface that produces high friction. It is often bumpy.
ruler	an instrument used to measure length
S	
sand	small rounded particles of rock
sandstone	a soft rock
satellite	any object which orbits another. Moons are natural satellites. Man made satellites that orbit the Earth are used for tracking, astronomy and telecommunications
saturated solution	a solution that has dissolved as much solute (e.g. salt) as possible, so that further solute added to it will not dissolve
scale	a graded system for measures e.g. temperature scale, weighing scale
scales	an instrument used to find the mass of objects
scavenger	an animal that eats other animals that have been killed by other predators, by accident or illness
season	times of the year when there are significant differences in the amount of day-light
second	a unit of time
seed	the fertilised ova of the plant that will grow into a new plant e.g. pips, peas, beans
seedling	a young plant that has just germinated
senses	sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing. They are used to find out about the world around
sepal	the part of the flower that protects it as a bud
sequence	an ordered set of objects, ideas or numbers
series circuit	an electrical circuit with two of more components arranged so that the same current flows through each of them in turn
sewage treatment	the process of cleaning and purifying sewage water for return to a river, lake or sea
shadow	the area of darkness formed when an object blocks light
side effects	the unwanted additional effects of a drug on the body
sieve	to separate coarse solid particles from a liquid or solid particles of different sizes

sight	one of our five senses
silence	the absence of sound
silver	a precious metal
single celled organism	an organism that is made up of only one cell e.g.
skeleton	the framework of bones that hold together the body, protect vital organs and allow the body to move
skin	the outer covering of an animal
skull	the bone protecting the brain
slate	a hard rock
smell	one of our senses
smoking	taking into the lungs the smoke from a burning cigarette
smooth	a surface that produces low friction
soft	a material that can be easily scratched or dented
soil	a natural material made when rocks are worn away - contains different sized particles of rock and animal and plant matter
solar eclipse	when the sun, moon and Earth are lined up such that the moon appears to cover the sun and a shadow is cast on the Earth
solar system	our sun and its planets and their satellites
solid	one of the three states of matter. Solids keep their shape. The particles of a solid are very close together. Ice is the solid state of water.
solidification	the process of a liquid hardening to form a solid
solidify	to harden from a liquid into a solid
solubility	a property of a material describing how well it will dissolve in a liquid
soluble	when a solid dissolves in water it is said to be soluble
solute	the name given to a substance dissolved in a liquid
solution	a liquid that has a solid dissolved in it
solvent	a liquid in which a solid will dissolve
sound	vibrations that can be heard by the ear
source	the place where light begins
species	a collection of similar organisms that can breed together
speed	how fast an object is moving
sphere	an object which is ball shaped
spherical	ball shaped
spider	an animal with 8 legs
spin	to turn around a point
spine	the backbone

squash	to make shorter by pushing from opposite direction
stars	massive objects that release energy in the form of heat and light e.g. our sun
states of matter	all material exists in three states – solid, liquid and gas
stamen	together the anther and filament form the stamen - the part of the plant where the male sex cells are produced - pollen
starches	carbohydrates that provide the body with energy
state	all matter exists in one of three states – solid, liquid and gas
stationary	not moving
stem	the main body or stalk of a plant
stigma	the part of the plant that pollen sticks to and leads to the ovules
still	not moving
stopwatch	an instrument used to measure time
stretch	to make longer by pulling in opposite directions
strong	a material that is difficult to break or tear
style	the part of the carpel joining the stigma to the ovary
substance	a material
sugars	a form of carbohydrate that can be easily converted into energy
suggestion	the proposal of a new idea or theory
summary	a short account or report
sun	the giant star around which the planets in our solar system rotate
sunlight	the light energy that comes form the sun
sunrise	the time of day when the sun appears to rise above the horizon to begin the day
sunset	the time of day when the sun appears to fall below the horizon to end the day
survey	a collection of data that can be used to identify trends and patterns
suspension	a liquid containing tiny particles of solid that mix with the liquid but do not dissolve
switch	a device that causes a break in the flow of electricity
T	
table	information that is arranged in rows and columns
tape measure	an instrument used to measure length
taste	one of our senses
teenager	a child that is beginning to change into an adult
teeth	the part of the mouth used to bite, tear and grind food

temperature	a measure of heat energy, or how hot or cold something is
terminals	the ends of a cell or battery that need to be connected in the circuit – each cell has a positive (+) and a negative (–) terminal
test	to carry out an investigation
texture	how an object feels
theory	a prediction - what you think will happen in an experiment
thermal conductor	a material which allows heat to pass easily e.g. metal
thermal insulator	a material which does not allow heat to pass easily e.g. wool
thermometer	an instrument used to measure temperature
tilt switch	a switch that uses gravity to break the circuit
tobacco	the leaves that are burnt inside a cigarette
toddler	a child that is learning to walk
tongue	the part of the mouth used for tasting
toothbrush	a device used for cleaning teeth
toothpaste	a substance used to help cleaning teeth
tooth decay	if old food sticks to teeth, plaque starts to grow on them and produce acid which rots the teeth
torch	a battery operated device that gives out light
touch	one of our senses
translucent	not see-through. Lets some light pass through
transparent	see-through. Lets all light pass through e.g. clear glass
tree	a tall plant with a woody trunk
trend	an observable pattern in results
trundle wheel	an instrument used to measure long distances
trunk	the stem of a tree
two way switch	a switch that is connected to two circuits that allows one or the other to function
U	
unbalanced forces	when one force acting on an object is greater than the other forces, the object moves in the direction in which that force is acting
upthrust	the upward force of an object in a liquid
V	
variables	the factors that can be changed or measured in a fair test
variation	differences between organisms of the same species
varied	different
vegetable	a plant that has parts that are used for food e.g. pea,

	cauliflower, onion etc
vein	a blood vessel carrying blood to the heart
Venn diagram	a diagram used when sorting into groups
vertebra	one of the small bones that forms part of the backbone
vertebrate	any animal that has a backbone
vibrate	to move backwards and forwards in a regular manner
vibration	the regular motion of a moving object (such as a string) which produces sound
virus	extremely small micro-organism (smaller than bacteria – a million in a row would measure only 5mm) that can only grow and reproduce within the cells of other organisms causing illness e.g. rhinovirus is the micro-organism causing the common cold
vitamins	chemicals which are required in small quantities for the body to function normally
volume	the space taken up by a solid, liquid or gas
W	
warm	not hot and not cold
watch	a device used to measure time
water cycle	the cycle of events that occur naturally in the weather systems of the Earth where water moves through its three states
water resistance	the force that water exerts on a moving object slowing it down
waterproof	does not allow water through
water purification	the process of removing dirt and germs from water to make it drinkable for humans
water vapour	the gaseous form of water
weak	a material that is easy to break or tear
weed	a plant growing where it is not wanted
week	a unit of time
weight	the downward force on an object caused by gravity
wind	the movement of air
wire	a metal conductor used to connect electrical components together to form a circuit
X	
x-ray	a picture taken in a hospital that shows the bones inside a body
Y	

year	a unit of time. The length of time it takes for earth to travel around the sun.
yeast	a micro-organism used in baking bread.