

# ***VOCABULARY WORDS SCIENCE***

*This is a list of words used collectively within the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Some words are used throughout all grades, while others are specific to a particular grade.*

1. Abiotic factor – a nonliving part of an organism’s habitat
2. Acceleration – the rate at which velocity changes over time; an object accelerates if its speed, direction, or both change
3. Analyze – to study using a logical or mathematical system
4. Aquifer – an underground layer of rock or sediment that holds water.
5. Astronomer – a scientist who studies the universe beyond Earth.
6. Atmosphere – the layers of gases that surrounds Earth.
7. Atom – the smallest particle of an element.
8. Axis – an imaginary line that passes through Earth’s center and the North and South Poles, about which Earth rotates.
9. Behavior – all the actions an animal performs
10. Big Bang – the most commonly accepted theory of how the universe formed: It states that the universe expanded from a hot, dense initial condition at a specific point in time around 13.8 billion years ago.
11. Biodiversity – number of different species in an area
12. Biosphere – that part of Earth in which life can exist.
13. Boiling – the conversion of a liquid to a vapor
14. Cementation – the process by which dissolved minerals crystallize and glue particles of sediment together into one mass.
15. Centi – one hundredth of a basic unit of measurement.
16. Chemical Property – any property of a substance that produces a change in the composition of matter.
17. Classifying-grouping items together that are alike in some way.
18. Cleavage – a mineral’s ability to split easily along flat surfaces.
19. Colony – a group of individual organisms living or growing together
20. Community – all the different populations that live together in an area
21. Compaction – the process by which sediments are pressed together under their own weight.
22. Compare – To tell or show how two things are alike and different
23. Compound – a substance in which two or more elements are chemically joined.
24. Condensation – the change of state from a gas to a liquid
25. Conduction – the direct transfer of thermal energy from one substance to another substance that is touching.
26. Conservation – the practice of using less of a resource so that resources will not be used up.
27. Continental Drift –the hypothesis stating that the continents slowly move across Earth’s surface.
28. Controlled Experiment – an experiment in which only one variable is manipulated at a time.
29. Convection – the transfer of thermal energy by the movement of a fluid.
30. Convergent Boundary – a plate boundary where two plates move toward each other.
31. Core – the central region of an object.
32. Crust – the layer of rock that forms Earth’s outer surface.

33. Crystal- a solid that is the repeating pattern of a mineral's particles.
34. Crystallization- the process by which atoms are arranged to form a material with a repeating solid structure.
35. Density –an object's mass divided by its volume: a measure of how many particles are packed together into a certain amount of space.
36. Dependent Variable – the factor that changes as a result of changes to the independent variable.
37. Deposition – the process in which sediment is laid down in new locations.
38. Describe – to explain or tell in detail. A written description can contain facts and other information needed to communicate your answers. A diagram or a graph may also be included.
39. Design – to make using specific criteria
40. Determine – to use the given information and any related facts to find a value or make a decision
41. Divergent Boundary – a plate boundary where two plates move away from each other.
42. Dormant – a volcano that is not currently active, but that may become active in the future.
43. Earthquake – the shaking that results from the movement of rock underground.
44. Eclipse – an event that happens when the shadow of an object in space falls on the surface of another object.
45. Electromagnetic Radiation – energy that travels through space in the form of waves.
46. Element – a substance in which all the atoms are the same that cannot be broken down into other substances.
47. Energy – the ability to do work or cause change.
48. Energy Pyramid – a diagram that shows the amount of energy that moves from one feeding level to another in a food web
49. Equator – an imaginary line that circles Earth halfway between the North and South poles.
50. Equinox – the two days of the year on which neither hemisphere is tilted toward or away from the sun.
51. Erosion – the destructive process in which water, wind, or gravity loosens and carries away fragments of rock.
52. Estimate – to find an approximate answer that is relatively close to an exact amount
53. Evaporation – the process by which molecules in liquid escape in the air as vapor/gas.
54. Evolution – the process of change in structure or function of an organism or environment over time.
55. Expect – using theoretical or experimental data to anticipate a certain outcome
56. Experiment – to try in several different ways to gather information
57. Explain – to give facts and details that make an idea easier to understand. Explaining can involve a written summary supported by diagram, chart, table or combination of these.
58. Extinct – a volcano that is no longer active and is unlikely to erupt again. Or an organism that no longer lives on Earth.
59. Fault – a break or crack in Earth's lithosphere along which the rocks move.
60. Find – to Calculate or determine

61. Fluid – a nonsolid state of matter in which the atoms or molecules are free to move past each other, as in a gas or liquid
62. Food Chain – a series of events in which one organism eats another and obtains energy
63. Force – a push or pull exerted on an object in order to change the motion of the object; force has size and direction
64. Fossil – evidence that an organism once existed in an area; can be part of the organism's body or a mark or print left by the organism.
65. Fossil fuel – an energy-rich substance (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) formed from long-dead organisms.
66. Fracture – the way a mineral looks when it breaks apart in an irregular way.
67. Galaxy – a huge group of single stars, star systems, star clusters, dust, and gas bound together by gravity.
68. Gemstone – a hard, colorful mineral that has a brilliant or glassy luster and is valued for its appearance.
69. Genotype – an organism's genetic makeup, or allele combinations
70. Geologic Time Scale – a record of the geologic events and life forms in Earth's history.
71. Geologist – a scientist who studies the forces that make and shape planet Earth.
72. Global Warming – a gradual increase in the temperature of Earth's atmosphere.
73. Gradualism – the theory that evolution occurs slowly but steadily
74. Gram – the basic metric unit to measure mass.
75. Gravity – the force that pulls objects toward each other. It depends on mass and distance.
76. Hardness – the level of a mineral's ability to be scratched.
77. Heat – the energy transferred between objects that are at different temperatures
78. Humidity – the amount of water vapor in a given volume of air.
79. Hydrosphere- all of the water on, inside and above the Earth.
80. Hypothesis – a possible explanation or a prediction for a set of observations or answer to a scientific question. It must be testable!
81. Identify – to match a definition or a description to an object or to recognize something and be able to name it
82. Igneous Rock – a type of rock that forms from the cooling of molten rock at or below the surface.
83. Illustrate – to show or present information usually as a drawing or a diagram. You can also illustrate a point using a written explanation
84. Independent Variable – the one factor that a scientist changes during an experiment.
85. Indicate – to point out or show
86. Inertia – the tendency of an object to resist a change in motion.
87. Inferring – an interpretation using observations, past knowledge, and experiences to explain what is happening.
88. Inorganic – not formed from living things or the remains of living things.
89. Invertebrate – an animals that does not have back-bone
90. Justify – to support your answers with reasons or examples
91. Kilo – one thousand of a basic unit of measurement.
92. Kinetic Energy – the energy an object has due to its motion.
93. Latitude - the distance in degrees north or south of the equator.

94. Lava – liquid magma that reaches the surface.
95. Learning – the process that leads to changes in behavior based on practice or experience
96. Light Year – the distance that light travels in one year.
97. Liter – the basic metric unit to measure capacity.
98. Lithosphere- the part of Earth that is composed mostly of rock; made up of the crust and outer mantle.
99. Longitude – the distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian.
100. Luster – the way a mineral reflects light from its surface.
101. Machine – a device that helps do work by either overcoming a force or change the direction of the applied force
102. Magma – the molten mixture of rock-forming substances, gases, and water from the mantle.
103. Mantle – the layer of material between Earth’s crust and core.
104. Mass – the amount of matter in an object.
105. Metamorphic Rock – a type of rock that forms from an existing rock that is changed by heat, pressure, or chemical reactions.
106. Meteorologist – scientists who study the causes and effects of weather and tries to predict it.
107. Meter – the basic metric unit to measure distance.
108. Milli – one thousandth of a basic unit of measurement.
109. Mineral – a naturally occurring, inorganic solid that has a crystal structure and a definite chemical composition.
110. Model – to represent a situation using pictures, diagrams, or number sentences
111. Niche – the role of an organism in its habitat
112. Observing – the process of using one or more of your senses to gather information.
113. Orbit – the path of an object as it revolves around another object in space.
114. Pangaea – the name of the single landmass that broke apart over 200 million years ago and gave rise to today’s continents.
115. Petrified Fossil- remains of a living specimen in which minerals replace all or part of the organism.
116. Physical Property – any characteristic of a substance that can be observed or measured without changing the composition of the substance.
117. Population – all the members of one species in a particular area.
118. Potential Energy – energy that is stored and available to be used later.
119. Predicting – the process of forecasting what will happen in the future based on past experience or evidence.
120. Reason – to think through using facts and information
121. Recall – to remember a fact quickly
122. Relate – to find a connection between two different things
123. Represent – to stand for or take the place of something else, symbols, symbols, equations, charts and tables are often used to represent particular situations
124. Revolution – the movement of an object around another object.
125. Rock Cycle – the process during which rocks are formed, change, wear down, and are formed again over long periods of time.

126. Rotation – the spinning motion of a planet on its axis.
127. Science – A way of learning about the natural world.
128. Scientific Method – a plan of inquiry that uses science process skills as tools to gather, organize, analyze, and communicate information.
129. Sedimentary Rock – a type of rock that forms when particles from other rocks or the remains of plants and animals are pressed and cemented together.
130. Sketch – to draw a rough outline of something. When a sketch is asked for, it means that a drawing needs to be included in your response
131. Society – a group of closely related animals of the same species that work together in a highly organized way
132. Solid – the state of matter in which the volume and shape of a substance are fixed
133. Solstice – the two days of the year in which the sun reaches its greatest distance north or south of the equator.
134. Streak – the color of a mineral’s powder.
135. Summarize – to go over or review the most important points
136. Taxonomy – the scientific study of how living things are classified.
137. Technology – how people modify the world around them to meet their needs or to solve practical problems
138. Temperature – a measure of how warm(or cool) something is; specifically, a measure of the average kinetic energy of the particles in an object
139. Transform Boundary – a plate boundary where two plates move past each other in opposite directions.
140. Trace Fossil-a type of evidence that provides a record of the activities of an ancient organism.
141. Universe – all of space and everything in it.
142. Use – to draw upon given information to help you determine something else
143. Variable – a factor that can change in an experiment.
144. Vertebrate – an animal that has a backbone
145. Viscosity – the resistance of a fluid to flow
146. Volcano – a weak spot in the crust where magma has come to the surface.
147. Volume – the amount of space an object takes up.
148. Water Cycle – The continual movement of water among Earth’s atmosphere, oceans, and land surface through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.
149. Weather – the condition of Earth’s atmosphere at a particular time and place.
150. Weight – a measure of the gravitational force exerted on an object; its value can change with the location of the object in the universe

This a list of words that students will use for all science classes and will show up on multiple testing formats. These words will be used in all future science classes throughout their career in middle school, high school, and beyond. We understand that this is a lot of words, but modifications will be made as necessary and where needed.

Thank you for your assistance,  
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