

# Physics Vocabulary ~ Chapter 1

**Accuracy** ~ a description of how close a measurement is to the correct or accepted value of the quantity measured

**Base Units** ~ Meter, Kilogram, Second

**Controlled Experiment** ~ an experiment that tests only one factor at a time by using a comparison of a control group with an experimental group.

**Derived units** ~ units formed by combining the seven base units with multiplication &/or division.

**Dimensions** ~ units of the measurement.

**Electromagnetism** ~ the study of electricity, magnetism & light

**Hypothesis** ~ an explanation that is based on prior scientific research or observations that can be tested.

**Instrument Error** ~ when an instrument is not in good working order, it can introduce an error into any measurement made with the device.

**Mechanics** ~ the study of motion and its causes, interactions between objects

**Method Error** ~ this type of error is due to different methods getting used to take the measurements.

**Model** ~ a pattern, plan, representation or description designed to show the structure or workings of an object, system, or concept.

**Optics** ~ the study of light

**Parallax** ~ an apparent shift in the position of an object when viewed from different locations

**Precision** ~ the degree of exactness of a measurement

**Quantum Mechanics** ~ the study of behavior of submicroscopic particles

**Relativity** ~ the study of particles moving at any speed, including very high speeds

**SI** ~ the system of units that is called Systeme International, where there are 7 base units used in science.

**Significant Figures** ~ those digits in a measurement that are known with certainty plus the first digit that is uncertain

**System** ~ a set of particles or interacting components considered to be a distinct physical entity for the purpose of study

**Thermodynamics** ~ the study of heat and temperature

**Vibrations & Waves** ~ the study of specific types of repetitive motions.