

Glossary

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A

Term	Definition
Absorption	The process by which nutrient molecules pass through the wall of the digestive system into the blood.
Acceleration	The rate at which velocity changes.
Acid rain	Rain that contains more acid than normal
Active Transport	Use energy to "carry" substances into a cell
Adaptations	A characteristic that helps an organism survive or reproduce in its environment.
Addiction	A physical dependence on a substance.
Adolescence	The stage of development between childhood and adulthood when children become adults physically and mentally.
Air Mass	An air mass is a huge body of air that forms over a region characterizing it with a similar temperature, humidity and pressure at any given height.
Air Pressure	The weight of air pressing down on the Earth.
Air resistance	The fluid friction experienced by objects falling through the air.
Alcoholism	A disease in which a person is both physically addicted to and emotionally dependent on alcohol.
Alleles	The different forms of a gene.
Altitude	height above sea level
Alveoli	Tiny sacs of lung tissue specialized for the movement of gases between air and blood.
Alto	A word prefix meaning mid altitude
Amino acids	Small units that are linked together chemically to form large protein molecules.
Amoebae	Amoebae are single-celled life-form characterized by an irregular shape and move using pseudopodia, or temporary projections of eukaryotes.
Anemometer	An instrument used to measure wind speed.
Aneroid barometer	An instrument that measures changes in air pressure without using a liquid.
Anticyclones	A high-pressure center of dry air.
Aorta	A high-pressure center of dry air.
Arteries	A blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart.
Atherosclerosis	A condition in which an artery wall thickens as a result of the buildup of fatty materials
Asexual reproduction	The process by which a single organism produces a new organism identical to itself
Atmosphere	Blanket of gases surrounding a planet.
Atrium	Each of the two upper chambers of the heart that receives blood that comes into the heart.
Autotrophs	Autotrophs are organisms that make their own food.
Average speed	The overall rate of speed at which an object moves; calculated by dividing the total distance an object travels by the total time

B

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Balanced forces	Equal forces acting on an object in opposite directions.	
Barometer	An instrument used to measure changes in air pressure	
Bilateral symmetry	Line symmetry; the quality of being divisible into halves that are mirror images	

Bile	A substance produced by the liver that breaks up fat particles.
Bivalves	A mollusk that has two shells held together by hinges and strong muscles.
Blood pressure	The pressure that is exerted by the blood against the walls of blood vessels.
Brainstorming	A process in which group members freely suggest any creative solutions that come to mind.
Bronchi	The passages that direct air into the lungs.
Bronchitis	An irritation of the breathing passages in which the small passages become narrower than normal and may be clogged with mucus.

C

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Capillary	A tiny blood vessel where substances are exchanged between the blood and the body cells.	
Cardiac muscle	Muscle tissue found only in the heart	
Cardiovascular system	The body system that consists of the heart, blood vessels, and blood; also called the circulatory system.	
Carrier	A person who has one recessive allele for a trait, but does not have the trait.	
Cartilage	A tissue that is more flexible than bone.	
Cell	Basic unit of structure and function in living things. It is the basic building block of life	
Cell Membrane	Found in plant and animal cells	
Cell theory	A widely accepted explanation of the relationship between cells and living things	
Cell Wall	It gives protection and support.	
Centripetal force	A force that causes an object to move in a circle.	
Chlorofluorocarbon	Human-made gases containing chlorine and fluorine (also called CFCs).	
Chloroplast	Found in plant cells only	
Chromatin	Chromatin is the combination of DNA and proteins that make up the contents of the nucleus of a cell.	
Chromosome	They are found in the nucleus. They direct the production of proteins in the cell and are responsible for cell growth and reproduction.	
Cillium	Cilium (cilia) are "hair-like" structures that outer membrane of some cells specialized for locomotion or movement.	
Cirro	A word prefix meaning high altitude	
Cirrus	The type of cloud formed from ice crystals at high altitudes	
Climate	The average, year-after-year conditions of temperature, precipitation, winds, and clouds in an area.	
Clone	An organism that is genetically identical to the organism from which it was produced	
Codominance	A condition in which neither of two alleles of a gene is dominant or recessive	
Composition	The parts that make up a system.	
Compound machine	A device that combines two or more simple machines.	
Cold Front	A cold front is defined as the leading edge of a cooler air mass, replacing or overtaking a warmer air mass.	
Condensation	The process of a gas changing into a liquid	
Conduction	The direct transfer of thermal energy from one substance to another that it is touching	
Continental	A dry air mass that forms over land	
Continental climate	The climate of the centers of continents, with cold winters and warm or hot summers	
Control	A group or factor that is used for comparison	

Convection	heat transfer within the atmosphere involving the upward movement of huge volumes of warm air, leading to subsequent condensation and cloud formation
Convection currents	The circulation of a fluid as it alternately heats up and cools down
Coordinate	A pair of numbers used to determine the position of a point on a graph.
Coriolis Effect	The observed deflection of something relative to the surface of Earth, caused by Earth's rotation beneath the object.
Cumulo	A work prefix meaning "heaped"
Cumulus	A type of cloud that is puffy or heaped in appearance, has distinct edges
Cyclone	A swirling center of low air pressure.
Cytoplasm	Cytoplasm is a gel-like substance residing between the cell membrane holding all the cell's organelles, except for the nucleus.
Cytoplasmic Streaming	Cytoplasmic streaming is the directed flow of cytosol or the liquid component of the cytoplasm around plant cells.

D

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Data	Facts, figures, and other evidence gathered through observations	
Density	The # of molecules in the same amount of space. (mass per unit of volume) $d = m/v$	
Dependent Variable	The factor that changes as a result of the experiment and is measured or observed.	
Deposition	The process of water vapor changing from a gas directly into a solid.	
Dew Point	The temperature at which water vapor will start to condense out of the air as liquid water.	
Diaphragm	A large muscle located at the bottom of a mammal's rib cage that functions in breathing.	
Diffusion	A process by which substances (other than water) move from a higher concentration of that substance	
Digestion	The process by which the body breaks down food into small nutrient molecules.	
Dominant allele	An allele whose trait always shows up in the organism when the allele is present.	

E

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Efficiency	The percentage of the input work that is converted to output work.	
El Niño	A climate event in the Pacific Ocean during which winds shift and push warm water toward the coast of South America.	
Electromagnetic wave	Waves that transfer electric and magnetic energy through the vacuum of space.	
Embryo	The young organism that develops from a zygote.	
Emphysema	A serious disease that destroys lung tissue and causes breathing difficulties	
Endoplasmic reticulum	A cell structure that forms a maze of passageways in which proteins and other materials are carried from one part of the cell to another.	
Environmental science	The study of the natural processes that occur in the environment and how humans can affect them	
Enzyme	A protein that speeds up chemical reactions in the body.	
Epiglottis	A flap of tissue that seals off the windpipe and prevents food from entering.	
Esophagus	A muscular tube that connects the mouth to the stomach.	
Estrogen	A hormone produced by the ovaries that controls the development of eggs and adult female characteristics.	
Euglena	Euglena is a protist that can both eat food as animals by heterotrophy; and can photosynthesize, like plants, by autotrophy.	
Eukaryotes	Eukaryotes are cellular organisms that contain nuclei.	
Evaporation	The process of a liquid changing into a gas	

Excretion	The process by which wastes are removed from the body.
Exosphere	the fifth layer of the atmosphere extending into space

F

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Fallopian tube	A passageway for eggs from an ovary to the uterus	
Fats	Energy-containing nutrients that are composed of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen	
Fertilization	The joining of a sperm cell and an egg cell.	
Fetus	A developing human from the ninth week of development until birth.	
Flash flood	A sudden, violent flood that occurs within a few hours, or even minutes, of a storm.	
Flagellum	Flagellum (flagella) are "tail-like " structure attached to the outer membrane of some cells specialized for locomotion or movement.	
Fluid	A fluid is anything that flows and fills its container such as a liquid or a gas.	
Fluid friction	Friction that occurs as an object moves through a fluid	
Fog	Clouds that form at the surface of the Earth.	
Food Guide Pyramid	A diagram that classifies foods into six groups to help people plan a healthy diet.	
Force	A push or pull exerted on an object.	
Free fall	The motion of a falling object when the only force acting on it is gravity.	
Friction	The force that one surface exerts on another when the two surfaces rub against each other.	
Front	A front is the boundary separating 2 or more different types of air masses.	
Fulcrum	The fixed point around which a lever pivots.	

G

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Gallbladder	The organ that stores bile after it is produced by the liver.	
Gene	The set of information that controls a trait; a segment of DNA on a chromosome that codes for a specific trait.	
Gene therapy	The insertion of working copies of a gene into the cells of a person with a genetic disorder in an attempt to correct the disorder	
Genetic disorder	An abnormal condition that a person inherits through genes or chromosomes.	
Genetic engineering	The process of altering an organism's genetic material to produce an organism with qualities that people find useful.	
Genetics	The scientific study of heredity.	
Genome	All of the DNA in one cell of an organism.	
Global warming	The theory that increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will raise Earth's average temperature.	
Global winds	Winds that blow steadily from specific directions over long distances.	
Glucose	A sugar that is the major source of energy for the body's cells.	
Goal	The overall purpose of a technological system.	
Golgi Body	It is named after Camillo Golgi, who discovered its presence in cells in 1898. It has a structure that looks like a flattened collection of sacs and tubes like a stack of pancakes. These structures can be thought of as the cell's mailroom. They receive proteins and other newly formed materials from the endoplasmic reticulum, package them, and distribute them to other parts of the cell or outside of the cell.	
Graph	A picture of information from a data table; shows the relationship between variables.	
Gravity	The force that pulls objects toward each other.	
Greenhouse effect	The trapping of heat near Earth's surface by certain gases in the atmosphere	

Greenhouse gases	Gases in the atmosphere that trap energy
Ground Water	Water that is beneath Earth's surface

H

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Heart	A hollow, muscular organ that pumps blood throughout the body.	
Heart attack	A condition in which blood flow to part of the heart muscle is blocked, causing heart cells to die.	
Heat	The transfer of thermal energy from one object to another because of a difference in temperature.	
Hemoglobin	An iron-containing protein that binds chemically to oxygen molecules, makes up most of red blood cells.	
Heredity	The passing of traits from parents to offspring.	
Heterotroph	Heterotrophs are organisms that cannot make their own food.	
Heterozygous	Having two different alleles for a trait.	
High Pressure Area/ System	A high pressure system is an area where the atmospheric pressure is greater than the rest of the atmosphere.	
Horizontal axis (or x axis)	A line that runs left to right along the bottom of a graph, on which the manipulated variable (or independent variable) is labeled.	
Hormone	The chemical product of an endocrine gland.	
Host	An organism that provides food to a parasite that lives on or inside it.	
Humid subtropical	A wet and warm climate found on the edges of the tropics.	
Humidity	The amount of water vapor in the air	
Hurricane	A hurricane is another name for a tropical cyclone that typically forms in the Atlantic Ocean.	
Hybrid	An organism that has two different alleles for a trait; an organism that is heterozygous for a particular trait.	
Hydrosphere	All of the Earth's water that is cycling within the water cycle.	
Hypertension	A disorder in which a person's blood pressure is consistently higher than normal; also called high blood pressure.	
Hypothesis	A guess based on prior knowledge.	

I

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Inbreeding	A selective breeding method in which two individuals with identical or similar sets of alleles are crossed.	
Inclined plane	A simple machine that is a flat sloped surface	
Independent Variable	The one part of the experiment that you change and test.	
Inertia	The tendency of an object to resist any change in its motion.	
Infrared radiation	Electromagnetic waves with wavelengths that are longer than visible light but shorter than microwaves.	
Input	Something that is put into a technological system in order to achieve a goal.	
Input force	The force exerted on a machine	
Input work	The work done on a machine as the input force acts through the input distance	
Instantaneous speed	The speed of an object at one instant of time	
International System of Units	A system of measurement based on multiples of ten and on established measures of mass, length, and time	
Ionosphere	The lower part of the thermosphere.	

Isobar	A line on a weather map that joins places that have the same air pressure.
Isotherm	A line on a weather map that joins places that have the same temperature.

J

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Jet Stream	A fairly narrow zone of very strong winds in the upper troposphere	
Joule	A unit of work equal to one newton-meter.	

K

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Karyotype	A picture of all the chromosomes in a cell arranged in pairs.	
Kidney	An organ that filters wastes from the blood.	

L

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
La Niña	A climate event in the eastern Pacific Ocean in which surface waters are colder than normal.	
Land breeze	The flow of air from land to a body of water.	
Large intestine	The last section of the digestive system, where water is absorbed into the bloodstream and the remaining material is eliminated from the body.	
Larynx	The voice box; located in the top part of the trachea, underneath the epiglottis.	
Latitude	The distance in degrees north or south of the equator.	
Law of conservation of momentum	The rule that in the absence of outside forces the total momentum of objects that interact does not change.	
Leeward	The side of a mountain range that faces away from the oncoming wind.	
Levee	A long ridge formed by deposits of sediments alongside a river channel.	
Lift	An upward force.	
Lightning	Lightning is an electrostatic discharge or the sudden and momentary flow of electric charge through the atmosphere between the clouds and the ground.	
Line of best fit	A smooth line that reflects the general pattern in a graph	
Linear graph	A line graph in which the data points yield a straight line	
Liver	The largest organ in the body; it plays a role in many body processes	
Local winds	Winds that blow over short distances.	
Low Pressure Area/ System	A low pressure system is an area where the atmospheric pressure is lowest compared to the surrounding area. Storms like tropical cyclones are called low-pressure cells.	
Lung	An organ found in air-breathing vertebrates that exchanges oxygen and carbon dioxide with the blood.	
Lysosome	Usually only found in animal cells	

M

Machine	A device that changes the amount of force exerted, the distance over which a force is exerted, or the direction in which force is exerted.
Manipulated variable	The one factor that a scientist changes during an experiment; also called independent variable
Marine climate	The climate of some coastal regions, with relatively warm winters and cool summers
Maritime	A humid air mass that forms over oceans.
Marrow	The soft connective tissue that fills the internal spaces in bone.
Mass	The amount of matter in an object.
Mechanical advantage	The number of times a machine increases a force exerted on it

Meiosis	The process that occurs in the formation of sex cells (sperm and egg) by which the number of chromosomes is reduced by half.
Menstrual cycle	The cycle of changes that occurs in the female reproductive system, during which an egg develops and the uterus prepares for the arrival of a fertilized egg.
Menstruation	The process in which the thickened lining of the uterus breaks down and blood and tissue then pass out of the female body through the vagina.
Mercury barometer	An instrument that measures changes in air pressure, consisting of a glass tube partially filled with mercury, with its open end resting in a dish of mercury
Mesosphere	Called the middle atmosphere, it is the coldest layer of the atmosphere, radio waves are reflected to Earth and meteors burn up in this layer, temperature continues to decrease with altitude
Meteorologist	A scientist who studies the atmosphere, weather and climate
Meter	The basic SI unit of length.
Metric system	A system of measurement based on the number 10.
Microclimate	Climate conditions within a small area that differ from those in the surrounding area.
Microscope	An instrument that makes small objects look larger.
Mitochondria	Found in plant and animal cells
Momentum	The product of an object's mass and velocity.
Motion	The state in which one object's distance from another is changing.
Mucus	A thick, slippery substance produced by the body.
Multicellular	Multicellular organisms are composed of many cells.
Multiple alleles	Three or more forms of a gene that code for a single trait.

 N

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Net force	The overall force on an object when all the individual forces acting on it are added together.	
Newton	A unit of measure that equals the force required to accelerate 1 kilogram of mass at 1 meter per second per second.	
Nicotine	A stimulant drug in tobacco that increases the activities of the nervous system, heart, and other organs.	
Nimbo	A word prefix meaning rain	
Nimbus	A word suffix meaning rain-ex.cumulonimbus	
Nonlinear graph	A line graph in which the data points do not fall along a straight line.	
Nuclear Envelope	Double lipid bilayer, which is a physical barrier, separating the contents of the nucleus. Nuclear pores are in the nuclear envelope, which regulate the exchange of materials.	
Nucleolus	This is the site where ribosomes are produced. Ribosomes are involved in the protein-making process in the cell.	
Nucleus	Found in plant and animal cells	
Nutrient	Substances in food that provide the raw materials and energy the body needs to carry out all its essential processes	

 O

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Occluded Front	An occluded front is formed when a cold front overtakes a warm front and in the process "cuts off" the warm front from contact with the ground.	
Organ	A structure that is composed of different kinds of tissue	
Organelles	A specialized part of the cell, it means little organ.	
Organ system	A group of organs that work together to perform a major function in the body.	

Osmosis	Diffusion of water through a membrane
Output force	The force exerted on an object by a machine
Output work	The work done by a machine as the output force acts through the output distance.
Ovary	Organ of the female reproductive system in which eggs and estrogen are produced.
Ovulation	The process in which a mature egg is released from the ovary into a fallopian tube.
Ozone	a form of oxygen, O ₃ , with a peculiar odor suggesting that of weak chlorine, produced when an electric spark or ultraviolet light is passed through air or oxygen. It is found in the troposphere after a thunderstorm or during periods of high temperature.
Ozone Layer	a layer of O ₃ in the atmosphere In the upper atmosphere, it absorbs ultraviolet rays, thereby preventing them from reaching the surface of the earth.

 P

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Pancreas	A triangular organ that lies between the stomach and first part of the small intestine.	
Parasite	An organism that lives inside or on another organism and takes food from the organism in or on which it lives.	
Paramecium	Paramecium is a group of unicellular protozoa, which are commonly studied as a representative of the ciliate group, or cilia movement.	
Pattern	Something that repeats itself in a predictable way.	
Pedigree	A chart or "family tree" that tracks which members of a family have a particular trait.	
Peristalsis	Involuntary waves of muscle contraction that keep food moving along in one direction through the digestive system.	
Phagocytosis	Phagocytosis is the cellular process of engulfing solid particles by reshaping the cell membrane.	
Pharynx	The throat; part of both the respiratory and digestive systems	
Phenotype	An organism's physical appearance, or visible traits	
Photochemical smog	A brownish haze that is a mixture of ozone and other chemicals, formed when pollutants react with each other in the presence of sunlight.	
Photosynthesis	The process by which plants and some other organisms capture and use light energy to make food from carbon dioxide and water.	
Placenta	A membrane that becomes the link between the developing embryo or fetus and the mother.	
Plasma	The liquid part of blood.	
Platelet	A cell fragment that plays an important part in forming blood clots.	
Polar air mass	A cold air mass that forms north of 50° north latitude or south of 50° south latitude and has high air pressure.	
Polar zone	The areas near both poles, from about 66.5° to 90° north and 66.5° to 90° south latitudes	
Pollen	Tiny particles (male gametophytes) produced by seed plants that contain the cells that later become sperm cells.	
Pollination	The transfer of pollen from male reproductive structures to female reproductive structures in plants	
Pollutants	Harmful substances in air, water, or soil.	
Pollution	Contamination of land, water, or air.	
Porous	full of holes or small spaces which allow the entry of water and air	
Power	The rate at which work is done.	
Precipitation	Any type of liquid or solid water that falls to Earth's surface	
Pressure	The force exerted on a surface divided by the total area over which the force is exerted	

Prefixes and suffix for the layers of the atmosphere vocabulary	Sphere: round
Probability	A number that describes how likely it is that an event will occur.
Process	A sequence of actions that a technological system undergoes to produce an output.
Projectile	An object that is thrown.
Prokaryotes	Prokaryotes are cellular organisms that lack a nucleus.
Properties	Characteristics
Protists	Protists are eukaryotes that cannot be classified as animals, plants, or fungi.
Protein	Nutrient that contains nitrogen as well as carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen; they are needed for tissue growth and repair and play a part in chemical reactions within cells.
Prototype	A working model used to test a design
Protozoa	Protozoa are a diverse group of single-cell eukaryotic organisms, many of which are motile.
Psychrometer	An instrument used to measure relative humidity.
Puberty	The period of sexual development in which the body becomes able to reproduce.
Pulley	A simple machine that consists of a grooved wheel with a rope or cable wrapped around it.
Pulse	The alternating expansion and relaxation of an artery wall as blood travels through an artery.
Punnett square	A chart that shows all the possible combinations of alleles that can result from a genetic cross
Purebred	The offspring of many generations that have the same traits.

Q

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Qualitative	Scientific observation that is not based measurements and numbers.	
Quantitative	Scientific observations that are based on measurements and numbers.	

R

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Radial symmetry	The quality of having many lines of symmetry that all pass through a central point.	
Radiation	The direct transfer of energy by electromagnetic waves.	
Rain gauge	An instrument used to measure precipitation	
Recessive allele	An allele that is masked when a dominant allele is present.	
Rectum	The end of the large intestine where waste material is compressed into a solid form before being eliminated	
Red blood cell	A cell in the blood that takes up oxygen in the lungs and delivers it to cells elsewhere in the body.	
Reference point	A place or object used for comparison to determine if an object is in motion.	
Reflex	An automatic response that occurs rapidly and without conscious control	
Relative humidity	The percentage of water vapor in the air compared to the maximum amount of water vapor that air can contain at a particular temperature	
Respiration	The process in which oxygen and glucose undergo a complex series of chemical reactions inside cells; also called cellular respiration.	
Responding variable	The factor that changes as a result of changes to the manipulated, or independent, variable in an experiment; also called dependent variable.	
Response	What the body does in reaction to a stimulus.	
Ribosome (Free or Bound)	Found in plant and animal cells	

Risk-benefit analysis	The process of evaluating the possible problems of a technology compared to the expected advantages.
Rolling friction	Friction that occurs when an object rolls over a surface
Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum	Found in plant and animal cells
Run Off	Water that flows across the surface of the Earth.
Runoff	Liquid precipitation that is not absorbed into the ground

S

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Saliva	The fluid released when the mouth waters that plays an important role in both mechanical and chemical digestion.	
Satellite	Any object that orbits around another object in space.	
Scattering	Reflection of light in all directions	
Scientific inquiry	The ongoing process of discovery in science; the diverse ways in which scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence they gather	
Scientific law	A statement that describes what scientists expect to happen every time under a particular set of conditions.	
Scientific Method	Organized method or process of gathering data to answer a hypothesis	
Scientific literacy	The knowledge and understanding of scientific terms and principles required for evaluating information, making personal decisions, and taking part in public affairs.	
Scientific theory	A well-tested explanation for a wide range of observations or experimental results.	
Screw	A simple machine that is an inclined plane wrapped around a central cylinder to form a spiral.	
Scrotum	An external pouch of skin in which the testes are located.	
Sea breeze	The flow of cooler air from over an ocean or lake toward land.	
Selective breeding	The process of selecting a few organisms with desired traits to serve as parents of the next generation	
Sex chromosomes	A pair of chromosomes carrying genes that determine whether a person is male or female.	
Sex-linked gene	A gene that is carried on the X or Y chromosome.	
Sexual reproduction	The process by which a new organism develops from the joining of two sex cells.	
SI (Système International d'Unités)	International System of Units; a version of the metric system used by scientists all over the world.	
Sliding friction	Friction that occurs when one solid surface slides over another.	
Slope	The steepness of a line on a graph, equal to its vertical change divided by its horizontal change.	
Small intestine	The part of the digestive system in which most chemical digestion takes place.	
Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum	Found in plant and animal cells	
Speed	The distance an object travels per unit of time	
Sperm	A male sex cell	
Static friction	Friction that acts on objects that are not moving.	
Stimulants	A drug that speeds up body processes.	
Stomach	A J-shaped, muscular pouch located in the abdomen.	
Stationary Front	A stationary front is a boundary between two different air masses, neither of which is strong enough to replace the other.	
Storm	A storm is any disturbance in the atmosphere, especially affecting its surface, and strongly implying severe weather marked by strong wind, thunder, lightning, and heavy precipitation.	

Storm surge	A storm surge is an offshore rise of water caused primarily by high winds pushing on the ocean's surface which force the water to pile up higher than the ordinary sea level.
Stratosphere	where most jets fly, where the ozone layer is found, atmosphere is drier, ozone here absorbs and scatters UV radiation
Stratus	the type of cloud forms in horizontal layers and blankets the sky
System	A group of related parts that work together.
Sublimation	The process of water changing from a solid directly into a gas.

T

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Tar	A dark, sticky substance that forms when tobacco burns.	
Target cell	A cell in the body that recognizes a hormone's chemical structure.	
Technology	How people modify the world around them to meet their needs or to solve practical problems	
Temperate zone	The areas between the tropical and the polar zones.	
Temperature	Average kinetic energy of the molecules in a substance	
Terminal velocity	The greatest velocity a falling object can achieve.	
Testis	Organ of the male reproductive system in which sperm and testosterone are produced.	
Testosterone	A hormone produced by the testes that controls the development of physical characteristics in mature men.	
Thermal energy	The total energy of motion in the particles of a substance.	
Thermometer	An instrument used to measure temperature.	
Thermosphere	The 4th layer that also contains the ionosphere	
Thermosphere (former called ionosphere)	temperatures can be very hot in this layer, known as upper atmosphere, temperature increases with altitude- it is the hottest layer, aurora lights occur here, may also be called the ionosphere	
Thunder	Thunder is a sonic shock wave (sonic boom) created from the rapid expansion & explosion of the air molecules surrounding and within a bolt of lightning, due to increases in pressure and temperature.	
Thunderstorm	A thunderstorm, is a weather phenomenon that results from the rapid upward movement of warm, moist air inside air masses or at fronts and are characterized by the presence of cumulonimbus clouds, lightning, thunder, and different types of precipitation.	
Tissue	A group of similar cells that perform a specific function.	
Tornado	A tornado is a violent, dangerous, rotating column of air that is in contact with both the surface of the earth and a cumulonimbus cloud or, in rare cases, the base of a cumulus cloud.	
Trachea	The windpipe; a passage through which air moves in the respiratory system.	
Trait	A characteristic that an organism can pass on to its offspring through its genes.	
Transpiration	The process of water evaporating from the leaves of plants during photosynthesis.	
Tropical	A warm air mass that forms in the tropics and has low air pressure.	
Tropical zone	The area near the equator, between about 23.5° north latitude and 23.5° south latitude.	
Tropical Cyclone	A tropical cyclone is a storm system that develops over large bodies of warm water at specific temperatures and is characterized by a large low-pressure center surrounded by numerous rotating thunderstorms that produce strong winds and heavy rain which can also produce high waves, damaging storm surge, as well as spawning tornadoes.	
Troposphere	Layer of the atmosphere nearest to Earth, where weather occurs and airplanes fly, temperature drops as altitude increases, where people live, known as lower layer of atmosphere	

Typhoon is the name given to a tropical cyclone that typically forms in the western Pacific & Indian Oceans.

U

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Ultraviolet radiation	Electromagnetic waves with wavelengths that are shorter than visible light but longer than x-rays.	
Umbilical cord	A ropelike structure that forms between the embryo or fetus and the placenta.	
Unbalanced forces	Forces that produce a nonzero net force, which changes an object's motion.	
Unicellular	Unicellular organisms are single-celled.	
Urea	A chemical that comes from the breakdown of proteins.	
Ureter	A narrow tube that carries urine from one of the kidneys to the urinary bladder.	
Urethra	A small tube through which urine flows from the body.	
Urinary bladder	A sack-like muscular organ that stores urine until it is eliminated from the body.	
Urine	A watery fluid produced by the kidneys that contains urea and other wastes.	
Uterus	The hollow muscular organ of the female reproductive system in which a fertilized egg develops.	

V

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Vacuoles	Found in plant and animal cells - BUT there is only one large vacuole in plant cells, and animal cells have a few little ones.	
Valve	A flap of tissue in the heart or a vein that prevents blood from flowing backward.	
Variable	A factor that can change in an experiment.	
Vein	A blood vessel that carries blood back to the heart	
Velocity	Speed in a given direction.	
Ventricle	Each of the two lower chambers of the heart that pumps blood out of the heart.	
Vertical axis (or y-axis)	A line that runs up and down along the side of a graph, on which the responding variable (or dependent variable) is labeled.	
Villus	Tiny finger-shaped structures that cover the inner surface of the small intestine and provide a large surface area through which digested food is absorbed.	
Vitamin	Molecules that act as helpers in a variety of chemical reactions within the body.	
Vocal cords	Folds of connective tissue that stretch across the opening of the larynx and produce a person's voice.	
Volume	The amount of space an object takes up.	
Volvox	Volvox is a type of green algae and forms spherical colonies of up to 50,000 cells who live in a variety of freshwater habitats.	

W

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Warm Front	A warm front is defined as the leading edge of a warm air mass overtaking a cooler, slower air mass.	
Water Cycle	The repeating processes that move water in different forms between Earth's surface and the atmosphere	
Water Vapor	Water in the atmosphere that is in the form of a gas.	
Watt	The unit of power in SI unit system is called a watt. The watt is the power which results in the production of energy at the rate of one joule per second (1 J.s ⁻¹).	
Weather	The condition of Earth's atmosphere at a particular time and place	
Weather patterns	Weather that repeats itself in a predictable way.	

Wedge	A simple machine that is an inclined plane that moves.
Weight	A measure of the force of gravity acting on an object.
Wheel and axle	A simple machine that consists of two attached circular or cylindrical objects that rotate about a common axis, each one with a different radius.
White blood cell	A blood cell that fights disease.
Wind	The horizontal movement of air from an area of high pressure to an area of lower pressure.
Wind-chill factor	A measure of cooling combining temperature and wind speed.
Windward	The side of a mountain range that faces the oncoming wind.
Withdrawal	A period of adjustment that occurs when a drug-dependent person stops taking the drug.
Work	Force exerted on an object that causes it to move.

⌂ X

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
X-chromosome	One of two sex chromosomes in higher organisms that defines the gender of the adult. In almost all sexually reproducing organisms, the X-chromosome defines female characteristics.	
X-linked disease	The mutation on X-chromosome that causes a genetic disease is called as X-linked disease.	
X-ray	A form of energy that travels in waves.	

⌂ YZ

Term	Definition	Top of the Page
Y-chromosome	One of two sex chromosomes in higher organisms that defines the gender of the adult. In almost all sexually reproducing organisms, the Y-chromosome defines male characteristics.	
Zygote	A fertilized egg.	