

Project glossary

absorbent

To be able to take in or soak up another material.

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bendy

To be flexible and able to be bent without breaking.

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chemical change

An irreversible change where new materials are formed. Burning is a type of chemical change.

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condense

When a gas is cooled and changes into a liquid.

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conductor

A material that allows heat or electricity to pass through.

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dissolve

When a solute becomes incorporated into a solvent and can no longer be seen. For example salt (solute) dissolves in water (solvent) to become saline (salt solution).

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electrically conductive

To be able to transfer, or conduct, an electric current.

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evaporate

When a liquid is heated and changes into a gas.

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filter

A device that removes small solid particles from a liquid or a gas, by not permitting the solid particles to pass through.

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filtration

The process of separating small solid particles from a liquid or a gas using a filter.

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freeze

When a liquid is cooled and changes into a solid.

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gas

A state of matter where the material has no fixed shape or volume. It fills the available space and can be compressed.

hard

To be solid and firm and can resist bending, cutting and breaking.

heterogeneous mixture

A mixture containing distinctly different substances, which are easy to see and separate.

homogeneous mixture

A mixture containing substances that are evenly distributed, are not easy to see and are difficult to separate.

innovative materials

New materials with specific useful properties.

insoluble

Unable to be dissolved in a solvent to form a solution.

insulator

A material that does not allow electricity or heat to pass through.

irreversible change

A change where new materials are formed, and there is no way to get the original materials back.

liquid

A state of matter where the substance can be poured. It takes the shape of a container and cannot be compressed.

magnetic

To be attracted to a magnet.

material

Something that is made of matter.

melt

When a solid is heated and changes into a liquid.

mixture

A combination of two or more substances that can be separated.

particle

A single piece of matter that is too small to be seen.

physical change

A change in which no new materials are formed that is often reversible. Melting is a type of physical change.

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property

A quality that a material has.

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reflective

To be able to reflect light from its surface.

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reversible change

A change where no new materials are formed and it is possible to recover the original materials.

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rough

To have an uneven or irregular surface.

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rust

A reddish-brown substance on the surface of the metal iron created by a chemical reaction between iron, oxygen in air and water.

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saturated solution

A solution in which a solvent has dissolved as much solute as it can. Any additional solute will not dissolve.

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sieve

A device made of mesh that catches solid particles when a mixture passes through.

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sieving

A method of separating solid particles from a mixture using a sieve.

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solid

A state of matter where the material keeps its shape unless a force is applied. It has a definite volume and cannot be compressed.

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solubility

A measure of a material's ability to dissolve in a solvent.

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soluble

To be able to dissolve in a solvent to form a solution.

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solute

A dissolved substance.

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solution

A mixture in which the solute and solvent particles are evenly spread out.

solvent

A substance that dissolves a solute.

stretchy

To be able to be pulled thinner, longer or wider without breaking or tearing.

strong

To be able to withstand force or pressure, such as bending, stretching or tearing.

temperature

A measure of how hot or cold something is.

thermally conductive

To be able to transfer, or conduct, heat.

transparent

To be able to be seen through.

waterproof

To be able to prevent water from passing through.

Scientific terms glossary

compare

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or different.

control

A part of a comparative investigation. It is an element that remains unchanged and is compared against the results to see the effect of a variable.

diagram

A drawing with labels that shows the parts of something.

equation

A statement used to show the changes that happen during a physical or chemical change.

equipment

An object or objects needed for a particular purpose, such as a hand lens or thermometer.

fair test

A test or investigation in which only one variable is changed.

investigation

An activity that involves carefully studying a subject or problem to learn facts or answer a question. An investigation involves a planning, doing, recording and reviewing stage.

line graph

A type of graph that uses a line to show changes over time.

observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

prediction

A statement made by a person where they say what they think will happen in the future, using their knowledge or experiences.

record

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

separate

To sort into individual parts.

thermometer

An instrument used to measure temperature.

variable

A factor, such as an object or condition, that changes during an investigation.

Venn diagram

A sorting diagram with two overlapping circles showing sets or groups of things.