

Glossary

Adobe: A building material made of clay and straw.

Age: To change in appearance because of the passage of time.

Alike: Acting or looking the same.

Brainstorm: To share ideas on a topic. People often brainstorm to solve a problem.

Communicate: To share information and ideas through speaking, writing, or drawing.

Compare: To look at two or more things to see how they are alike or different.

Component: A part of something.

Compost: A mixture of decayed leaves, vegetables, and other plant materials.

Data: Information, such as that gathered during an experiment.

Decay: The process by which dead organic material breaks down. Also, to rot.

Decomposers: Tiny organisms in the soil that help break it down.

Describe: To use words to explain how something looks, feels, or acts.

Different: Not the same.

Experiment: A procedure that is carried out to investigate a scientific question.

Fair test: A test that compares two or more things by keeping everything the same except the thing being compared. A race is a fair test. Everyone starts at the same place and at the same time and ends at the same place. The only thing that is different is the speed of the runners.

Germination: The process by which a seed swells up and begins to sprout and develop roots.

Graph: A diagram used to show the relationship between things.

Gravel: A part of soil. Gravel is larger than sand, silt, or clay, but smaller than rocks.

Guess: To give an idea about something when you are not sure.

Humus: Decayed plant and animal material in soil.

Inorganic matter: Anything that does not come from living things. Sand, silt, and clay are examples of inorganic matter in soil.

Investigate: To study something closely and in an organized way.

Length: The distance from one end of something to the other.

Loam: Rich, loose soil.

Measure: To find out the length, size, or weight of something.

Object: Something you can see or feel.

Observe: To use your senses to study something closely.

Organic: Coming from living things.

Organic matter: The remains of decayed and decomposing plants and animals.

Organism: A living thing. Plants and animals are two types of organisms.

Pattern: A repeating arrangement of shapes, colors, numbers, or other things.

Plot: To locate a point or points on a graph.

Predict: To say what you think is going to happen.

Procedure: A set of steps that tells how to do something.

Property: Something about an object that helps tell what it is.

Same: Alike; not different.

Sand: A part of soil. Sand is smaller than gravel but bigger than silt or clay.

Senses: Touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing.

Shape: The form of an object.

Silt: A part of soil. Silt is smaller than sand but bigger than clay.

Size: A measurement of how big something is.

Soil: The top layer of earth, in which plants grow. Soil is composed of organic materials (humus), inorganic materials (sand, silt, and clay), water, and air.

Sort: To put things together on the basis of a property, such as color or size.

Texture: The feel or look of something.

Tool: An object used to do a task.

Unit: A fixed quantity used as a standard of measure. Inches, miles, meters, degrees, and kilograms are all units.

Weight: A measurement of how heavy something is.