

Glossary

Air: The mixture of gases around us.

Alike: Acting or looking the same.

Atmosphere: The layers of air that surround a planet.

Beginning point: The place where you start.

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

Cirrus: A type of cloud. Cirrus clouds are very thin and white.

Cloud: A mass of tiny drops of water, dust, or pieces of ice. Clouds usually float in the sky. They are gray or white.

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.

Cumulus: A type of cloud. Cumulus clouds are fluffy and round on top.

Data: Information.

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

Different: Not the same.

Evaporate: To change from a liquid to a gas; to dry up.

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.

Float: To rest in or on the surface of a liquid or in a gas; to move along slowly in the air.

Flow: To move slowly and smoothly.

Forecast: To make a prediction based on evidence.

Gas: A substance that has no shape or size. Gases spread out to fill space. Most gases have no color and cannot be seen.

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

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

Instrument: A tool; a measuring device.

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

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

Liquid: A substance that has no shape but that takes up space. A liquid takes the shape of its container.

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

Meteorologist: A scientist who studies changes in the atmosphere.

Object: Something you can see or feel.

Observe: To use your senses to study something closely.

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

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

Precipitation: Water that falls to earth as rain, snow, hail, or sleet.

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

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

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

Rain gauge: A tool used to catch and measure rainfall.

Same: Alike; not different.

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

Shape: The form of an object.

Size: A measurement of how big something is.

Solid: A substance that takes up space and has its own shape.

Sort: To put things in groups on the basis of a property, such as color or shape.

Stratus: A type of cloud. Stratus clouds are long and flat.

Temperature: A measurement of how hot or cold something is.

Thermometer: A tool used to measure how hot or cold something is.

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.

Water cycle: The process by which water moves through the ground, evaporates from earth into the air, forms clouds, and falls back to earth as rain or snow.

Weather: How cold or hot, wet or dry, or windy or calm it is at a certain time and place.

Weight: A measurement of how heavy something is.

Wet: Covered with liquid; not dry.

Wind: Moving air.

Wind speed: The rate at which the wind moves.