

SCIENTIFIC LITERACY TERMINOLOGY: ELEMENTARY

This list is intended as a guide for teachers. While not exhaustive, it includes vocabulary that should be used, as appropriate, by teachers and students during everyday classroom discourse. It is not intended for student memorization.

absorb	droplets	liter	range
adaptation (adapt)	drought	lungs	record (data)
aluminum	ecosystem	magnet, magnetic	recycle
amphibian	environment	magnifier	reflect
analyze	erode, erosion	magnifying glass	repel
atmosphere	evaluate	mammal	reproduce
attract	evaporate	mass	reptile
average	evaporation	materials	result
balance	evidence	melt	reuse
battery	experiment	metal	revolve, revolution
beaker	explain your reasoning	metamorphosis	rotate, rotation
binoculars	explain, explanation	meter, meter stick	sand
boulder	explore	migrate	scale
breathe	extinct	migration	scientific observation
butterfly	Fahrenheit	milliliters	season
cactus	fair test	mineral	seed dispersal
camouflage	findings	mirror	separate
Celsius	flexible	mixture	sequence
centimeter	float	motion	shadow
characteristic	force	natural resources	silt
circuit	freeze	nutrients	sink (float)
classify	gas	object	soil
clay	germinate	observe, observation	solid
climate	gills	offspring	sort
collect data	graduated cylinder	opinion	speed
compare	gram	orbit	state of matter
conclusion	gravity	organism	stopwatch
conclusion based on data	guitar string	oxygen	strum (a string)
condense	habitat	particles	surface
condensation	hand lens	pattern	survive
conduct (an experiment)	hibernate, hibernation	pebble	telescope
conduct (electricity)	humid, humidity	perform an experiment	temperature
conserve	hypothesis	periscope	tension
cork	identify	photosynthesis	testable
critique	increase	pitch (sound)	texture
crystal	insect	planet	thermometer
cycle	insulate, insulator	pluck (a string)	thorns
data	investigate	position	transparent
decrease	kilogram	precipitation	vibrate, vibration
describe	layer	predict, prediction	water cycle
determine	length	pressure	weigh, weight
diagram	lens	procedure	
dissolve	life cycle	process	
draw a conclusion	liquid	property	