

## SCIENTIFIC LITERACY TERMINOLOGY: MIDDLE SCHOOL

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.

adaptation (adapt)	erode, erosion	object	water cycle
analyze	evaluate	observe, observation	weather, weathering
assumption	evaporate, evaporation	offspring	weigh, weight
atmosphere	evaluate	orbit	work
average	evidence	organism	
axis	examine	organize	
balance	experiment	oxygen	
beaker	experimental design	particles	
boiling point	explain your reasoning	pattern	
camouflage	explain, explanation	perform an experiment	
categorize	explore	photosynthesis	
Celsius	extinct	position	
centimeter (cm)	Fahrenheit	precipitation	
characteristic property	fair test	predict, prediction	
classify	findings	pressure	
climate	force	procedure	
collect data	formulate	process	
compare	friction	property	
composition	function	range	
compound	graduated cylinder	record (data)	
conclusion	gram	reliability (data)	
conclusion based on data	gravity	reproduce	
condense, condensation	habitat	resources	
conduct (an experiment)	hemisphere	result	
conserve, conservation	hypothesis	revolve, revolution	
constant	identify	rotate, rotation	
contrast	increase	scale	
control	independent variable	scientific observation	
controlled experiment	infer	separate	
credibility	interact	sequence	
critique	interpret	soluble	
cycle	investigate	solution	
data	joules	speed	
decrease	kilogram	state of matter	
demonstrate	life cycle	structure	
density, dense	liter	substance	
dependent variable	mass	surface	
describe, description	materials	support with data	
design	metal	survive	
determine	meter, meter stick	synthesize	
develop	microscopic	technique	
diagram	milliliter (mL)	temperature	
differentiate	mixture	tension	
dissolve	model	tentative	
draw a conclusion	moisture	testable question	
distinguish	molecule	theory	
droplets	motion	trials	
ecosystem	natural resources	valid	
element	newtons	variable	
energy transformation	nonmetal	volume	
environment	nutrients		