

# Project glossary

## **alloy**

A mixture of two metals or a metal that has been mixed with another substance.

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## **atmosphere**

The layer of gases that surrounds Earth.

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## **attract/attraction**

When one object moves towards another object.

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## **aurora**

Bands of coloured light that appear in polar regions.

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## **cobalt**

A hard, silvery-white metal that is magnetic.

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## **compass**

An instrument used for showing directions.

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## **contact force**

A force that acts between two objects that touch.

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## **ferrofluid**

A magnetic liquid.

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## **ferrous**

Containing iron.

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## **force**

A push or a pull.

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## **force meter**

An instrument used to measure forces in newtons.

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## **friction**

The force between two surfaces as they move across each other.



**iron**

A strong, greyish metal that is magnetic.

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**iron filings**

Very small pieces of iron.

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**lubricant**

A substance that reduces friction between moving parts that rub against each other.

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**magnet**

An object that produces a magnetic field.

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**magnetic field**

The area around a magnet where its magnetic force acts.

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**magnetic force**

Also known as magnetism. The attraction and repulsion between two magnets or between a magnet and magnetic materials.

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**magnetise**

To make an object magnetic.

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**magnetite**

A naturally occurring magnetic rock.

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**magnetosphere**

The Earth’s invisible magnetic field.

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**newton**

The unit in which forces are measured.

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**nickel**

A silver-coloured metal that is magnetic.

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**non-contact force**

A force that acts between two objects that do not touch.



**north pole**

The end of a magnet where magnetic force is strong. The north pole of a magnet is the pole out of which magnetic field lines emerge.

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**outer core**

A molten metal layer of the Earth that lies between the inner core and the mantle.

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**pull**

A force that moves an object towards something.

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**push**

A force that moves an object away from something.

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**repel/repulsion**

When one object pushes another object away.

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**solar wind**

A stream of electrically charged particles travelling from the Sun to the Earth.

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**south pole**

The end of a magnet where magnetic force is strong. The south pole of a magnet is the pole into which magnetic field lines enter.

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**steel**

A very strong, alloy made mainly from iron. It is magnetic.

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**surface**

The top or outer layer of an object.

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**tread pattern**

A pattern of lines cut into a surface to stop it from slipping.



# Scientific terms glossary

## **bar chart**

A way of displaying data, which uses vertical blocks or rectangles to show different amounts.

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## **compare**

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

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## **conclusion**

An explanation of what has been found out using the data collected.

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## **data**

Collected information or facts, including numbers, words, measurements or observations.

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## **describe**

To say aloud or write how something is done or what something is like.

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## **diagram**

A drawing with labels that shows the parts of something.

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## **equipment**

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a force meter.

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## **investigation**

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

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## **measurement**

The exact amount of something, such as the length, height, mass or volume in standard units.

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## **method**

A set of instructions or steps to do a particular task.



**observe**

To watch or look at something carefully.

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**prediction**

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

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**record**

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

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**research**

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

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**results**

The data collected from an investigation or test.

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**table**

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

