

# Project glossary

## **boiling point**

The temperature at which a liquid changes to a gas. A material's boiling point is the same temperature as its condensing point.

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## **compress**

To squash.

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## **condense/condensation**

When a gas is cooled and changes into a liquid.

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## **condensing point**

The temperature at which a gas condenses into a liquid. A material's condensing point is the same temperature as its boiling point.

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## **cool**

To remove a heat source so the temperature decreases.

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## **evaporate/evaporation**

When a liquid is heated and changes into a gas.

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## **foam**

A material that is bubbles of gas trapped within a liquid.

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## **freeze/freezing**

When a liquid is cooled and changes into a solid.

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## **freezing point**

The temperature at which a liquid freezes into a solid. A material's freezing point is the same temperature as its melting point.

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## **gas**

A state of matter where the material has no fixed shape or volume. It fills the available space and can be compressed.

**gel**

A thick, or viscous, liquid.

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**heat**

A form of energy that increases the movement of particles in matter.

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**ice**

The solid form of water.

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**liquid**

A state of matter where the material can be poured. It takes the shape of a container and cannot be compressed.

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**material**

Something that is made of matter.

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**matter**

What all things are made from.

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**melt/melting**

When a solid is heated and changes into a liquid.

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**melting point**

The temperature at which a solid melts into a liquid. A material’s melting point is the same temperature as its freezing point.

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**particle**

A single piece of matter that is too small to be seen.

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**powder**

Lots of small solid particles.

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**process**

A series of actions taken to achieve a result.

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**property**

A quality that a material has.

**reversible**

Capable of being reversed so that the previous state is restored.

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**solid**

A state where the material keeps its shape unless a force is applied. It has a definite volume and cannot be compressed.

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**state of matter**

Forms of matter, such as a solid, liquid or gas.

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**steam**

Another term for gaseous water (water vapour).

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**temperature**

How hot or cold something is.

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**viscous**

Describes the thickness of a liquid.

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**volume**

The amount of space that an object takes up or contains.

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**water vapour**

The gaseous form of water.

# Scientific terms glossary

**compare**

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

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**conclusion**

The outcome of an investigation.

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**data**

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

**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 hand lens, ruler or thermometer.

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**estimate**

Roughly calculate an answer or outcome, usually with a numerical value.

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**interval**

The distance between two points or times.

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**investigation**

An activity that involves 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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**line graph**

A type of graph that uses a line to show changes over time.

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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 follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

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**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.

**question**

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

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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 data or information gathered by other people to discover 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.

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**thermometer**

An instrument that measures temperature.

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**unit**

A system of measurement, such as millimetres (mm) or degrees Celsius (°C).

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**variable**

A factor, such as an object or condition, that changes during an investigation.