

# Project glossary

## **appliance**

A piece of electrical equipment used in the home.

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## **battery**

A number of cells connected together.

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## **battery holder**

A component that holds one or more cells.

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## **buzzer**

A component that makes a sound when part of a complete circuit.

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## **cell**

A store of chemical energy that can be converted to electrical energy and used as a power source.

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## **circuit**

A collection of components connected by wires through which electricity can flow.

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## **circuit diagram**

A simplified drawing that represents an electrical circuit. Symbols are used in a circuit diagram to show the different components in the circuit.

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## **coding**

A language used to give instructions to a computer.

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## **component**

A device added to an electrical circuit.

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## **conductor**

A material through which an electric current can flow.

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## **crocodile clip**

A metal clip that is used to join electric wires to components.

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## **data logger**

An electronic device that uses sensors to monitor environmental variables, such as temperature, light and sound.



**electric current**

The flow of electric charge through a circuit.

**electricity**

A form of energy that provides power and makes appliances work.

**environmental variable**

A feature of the environment that changes, such as temperature or light.

**insulator**

A material that does not allow an electric current to pass through.

**lamp**

A component with a bulb and a holder that emits light when part of a complete circuit.

**light-emitting diode (LED)**

A device with two legs that emits light when part of a complete circuit. An LED only conducts electricity in one direction.

**light meter**

A device used to measure light intensity.

**mains**

Electricity generated in power stations and supplied to buildings through wires.

**micro:bit**

A small, programmable computer with an LED display, buttons and sensors.

**motor**

A component that creates movement when part of a complete circuit.

**multimeter**

A piece of equipment that can be used to measure voltage or electric current.

**sensor**

A device that monitors changes in the environment.

**series circuit**

A circuit that forms a loop with a single path for electric current to take.

**source**

Where electricity comes from, such as a cell or the mains.



**switch**

A component that can make or break a circuit when part of a complete circuit.

**symbol**

A sign or shape that is used to represent something else.

**terminal**

A point where electricity enters or leaves a cell.

**volt**

The unit used to measure voltage.

**voltage**

A measure of the force of an electric current, measured in volts.

**voltmeter**

A piece of equipment used to measure voltage.

**wire**

A conductive wire coated in insulating plastic that electric current flows through and connects other components.

# Scientific terms glossary

**compare**

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

**conclusion**

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

**data**

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

**diagram**

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

**equipment**

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a data logger or light meter app.



**fair test**

A test or investigation in which only one variable is changed each time measurements are made.

**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.

**measurement**

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

**method**

A set of instructions or steps to follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

**observe**

To watch or look at something carefully.

**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.

**record**

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

**research**

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

**results**

The data collected from an investigation or test.

**table**

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

**variable**

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

