


High School Vocabulary Words


Physics Science Words (Introductory)			
amplitude	energy conservation	inertia	reliable
average acceleration	equilibrium	Kelvin	technological design process
average velocity	feedback systems	kinetic energy	theory
criteria	frequency	net force	trade-offs
electromagnetic spectrum	gravitational potential energy	Newton	vector
electromagnetic wave	hypothesis	Newton's laws	wavelength



Chemistry Science Words			
acid/base reactions	concentration	ion	nuclear radiation
aqueous solution	covalent bond	ionic bond	outer most electrons
atomic mass	electron	isotope	periodic table
atomic nucleus	endothermic	moles	pH
atomic number	exothermic	neutron	proton
chemical formula	half life	nuclear fission	
chemical reaction	hydrogen bond	nuclear fusion	

Biology Science Words			
ATP	cellular respiration	meiosis	population density
biodiversity	chloroplast	mitochondria	protein
biological evolution	chromosome	mitosis	ribosome
carbon cycle	DNA	mutation	sustainable development
cell membrane	enzyme	natural selection	synthesize
cell nucleus	genetic recombination	Niche	
cellular replication	homeostasis	nitrogen cycle	

Earth/Space Science Words (Integrated)			
Big Bang Theory	evolution (of the Earth)	global climate	radioactive decay
biogeochemical cycles	fossil fuels	nebula	red shift
carbon dioxide	geologic time	planetary system	star life cycle



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Northwest Educational Service District 189


Together We Can

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Science Vocabulary

“Teaching specific terms in a specific way is probably the strongest action a teacher can take to ensure that students have the academic background knowledge they need to understand the content they will encounter in school”
(Marzano & Pickering, 2005, p. 1).



Northwest Educational Service District 189

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The following are examples of what a Washington State school district might produce using the state science standards and other vocabulary lists. It is recommended that each district create its own list based on learning goals and adopted instructional materials.



K-2 Vocabulary Words

Kindergarten Science Words			
animal	food	ruler	size
chart	magnifier	same	sky
color	moon	sand	sun
day	night	seasons	water
different	patterns	senses	week
earth	plant	shape	year

1st Grade Science Words			
air	force	measure	push
cloud	growth	motion	root
common	habitat	non-living	solid
compare	leaf	observe	tools
container	liquid	part	weather
data table	living	position	whole
describe	location	predict	wind
distance	magnet	pull	

2nd Grade Science Words			
balance	height	model	shadow
contrast	infer	object	soil
evidence	insect	parent	state of matter
flower	life cycle	properties	temperature
fossil	light	science	texture
freeze	materials	scientist	thermometer
gas	melt	seed	weigh



3-5 Vocabulary Words

3rd Grade Science Words			
bones	function (Systems)	light energy	structures
characteristics	graph	mineral	system
data	hardness	muscle	vibration
energy	heat energy	nutrients	weight
energy of motion	instruments	pitch	
force	investigation	sound	

4th Grade Science Words			
attraction	current	evaporation	solution (to a problem)
battery	deposition	gas	water cycle
circuits	drought	insulator*	weather
climate	electricity	precipitation	weathering
condensation	energy transfer	repulsion	
conductor	erosion	sediment	



5th Grade Science Words			
apparent motion of the sun	ecosystem	orbit	reliability
comparison	environment	physical change	repeated trials
competition	experiment	planet	revolution
constellation	field studies	population	rotation
consumer	food web	predator	solar system
decomposer	gravity	prey	spherical
eclipse	interaction	producer	subsystem

6-8 Vocabulary Words



6th Grade Science Words			
analyze	controlled variable	manipulated variable	responding variable
anatomy	diagram	mass	tissue
attributes	digestive system	matter	unicellular organism
cell	energy transformation	multicellular organism	variable
characteristics of life	external	organ	visible light
circulatory system	factor	organ system	volume
classification of organisms	internal	organism	
control	investigative question	respiratory system	

7th Grade Science Words			
atmosphere	Earth's crust	mantle	sedimentary rock
average speed	earthquake	metamorphic rock	simulation
balanced force	electrical energy	phenomena	speed
chemical energy	fault	photosynthesis	thermal
climate	formation	plate tectonics	unbalanced force
conduction	friction	pressure	validity
convection	hydrosphere	radiation	
crustal plate	igneous rock	rock cycle	
crystal	lithosphere	scientific skepticism	

8th Grade Science Words			
adaptation	diversity	genetic information	molecule
atom	eclipse	genetic variation	open system
chemical change	element	heredity	phase change
closed system	evolution	intrinsic property of matter	satellite
compound	extinction	light year	solubility
density	galaxy	matter	species
dissolve	gene	mixture	sublimation