



**Signing Science Dictionary**  
**Word List**

**A**

abdomen  
abiotic  
abnormal  
abrasion  
absolute zero  
absorb  
acceleration  
acid  
acid level  
acid rain  
acoustics  
acre  
adapt  
adhere  
adult  
aeration  
aerobic activity  
aerodynamics  
aerosol  
agriculture  
air  
air mass  
air pollution  
air pressure  
air resistance  
airway  
algae  
align  
alkaline  
allele  
allergic reaction  
allergy  
alloy  
altitude  
aluminum  
alveolus  
amoeba  
amphibian  
amplitude  
analyze  
anatomy  
ancestor  
anemometer  
angle  
animal  
Antarctic  
antenna (1)\*  
antenna (2)\*

anther  
antibiotic  
antibody  
anticyclone  
antiseptic  
anus  
aorta  
apparatus  
appendage  
aquaculture  
aquarium (1)\*  
aquarium (2)\*  
aquatic  
aqueduct  
aquifer  
arachnid  
Arctic  
area  
argon  
arrange  
artery  
arthropod  
artificial  
asexual reproduction  
asteroid  
asthma  
astronomical unit (AU)  
astronomy  
atmosphere  
atmospheric pressure  
atom  
atomic mass  
atomic number  
atrium  
attract  
aurora  
average  
axis  
axle

**B**

backbone  
bacterium  
balance  
bandwidth  
bark  
barometer  
barometric pressure  
base

battery  
beaker  
Beaufort scale  
bedrock  
behavior  
beneficial  
bicep  
bilateral symmetry  
bile  
binoculars  
biodegradable  
biodiversity  
biology  
biomass  
biome  
biosphere  
biotic  
bird  
black hole  
bladder  
blizzard  
block  
blood  
blood cell  
blood vessel  
bloodstream  
body (1)\*  
body (2)\*  
body (3)\*  
body cell  
boil  
boiling point  
bond  
bone  
botany  
bowel  
brain  
branch  
break down  
breathe  
breathing rate  
breed (1)\*  
breed (2)\*  
brittle  
bromine  
bronchiole  
bronchitis  
bronchus  
buoyancy

## C

calibrate  
calorie  
camouflage  
canal  
cancer  
capillary  
carbohydrate  
carbon  
carbon cycle  
carbon dioxide  
carbon dioxide-rich blood  
carbon monoxide  
cardiac  
cardiac muscle  
cardiovascular system  
carnivore  
cartilage  
catalyst  
caustic  
caustic soda  
celestial  
cell  
cell division  
cell membrane  
cell wall  
Celsius scale  
centimeter  
centrifugal force  
chamber  
channel  
characteristic  
charge (1)\*  
charge (2)\*  
chemical  
chemical bond  
chemical change  
chemical compound  
chemical energy  
chemical equation  
chemical formula  
chemical property  
chemical reaction  
chemical symbol  
chemistry  
chest cavity  
chlorine  
chlorophyll  
chloroplast

cholesterol  
chromosome  
circuit  
circuit breaker  
circulation  
circulatory system  
cirrus cloud  
class  
classification  
clay  
climate  
clockwise  
clone  
clot  
cloud  
cloud cover  
coagulation  
coal  
cocoon  
cold  
cold-blooded  
combine  
combustion  
comet  
common name  
communication  
community (1)\*  
community (2)\*  
compass  
competition  
complex machine  
component  
composed of  
composition  
compost  
compound  
compression  
compression wave  
computer  
concave lens  
concentration  
condensation  
condition  
conduction  
conductor  
cone (1)\*  
cone (2)\*  
cone (3)\*  
conifer

connective tissue  
conservation  
constellation  
consumer  
contagious  
contaminate  
continent  
continental shelf  
contract  
control sample  
convection  
convex lens  
copper  
coral reef  
core  
corona  
cotyledon  
counterclockwise  
crater  
crest  
crust  
crustacean  
crystal  
cultivate  
cumulonimbus cloud  
cumulus cloud  
current (1)\*  
current (2)\*  
cycle (1)\*  
cycle (2)\*  
cyclone  
cytoplasm

## D

day  
decay  
decibel  
decomposer  
decomposition  
decrease  
degree  
density  
deoxygenated blood  
deposition  
depression  
derive  
desalination  
descend  
desert

detritus  
develop  
device  
dew point  
diameter  
diaphragm  
dicotyledon  
diffusion  
digestion  
digestive system  
dilute  
dinosaur  
direct contact  
disease  
disinfection  
disperse  
dissect  
dissolve  
distance  
distribute  
disturbance  
diversity  
DNA  
dominant  
Doppler effect  
dormancy  
dorsal  
drizzle  
drought

## **E**

Earth (1)\*  
earth (2)\*  
Earth science  
earthquake  
echinoderm  
echo  
eclipse  
ecology  
ecosystem  
egg (1)\*  
egg (2)\*  
El Nino  
electric cell  
electric charge  
electric circuit  
electric current  
electric field  
electric force

electrical energy  
electricity  
electrolyte  
electromagnet  
electromagnetic radiation  
electromagnetic spectrum  
electromagnetic wave  
electron  
element  
elevate  
embryo  
emit  
endangered species  
endoskeleton  
energy  
enrich  
environment  
enzyme  
epicenter  
epidermis  
Equator  
equinox  
erosion  
erupt  
esophagus  
estuary  
eutrophication  
evaporation  
evergreen  
evolution  
evolve  
excrete  
excretory system  
exercise  
exhale  
exhaust  
exoskeleton  
exosphere  
expand  
experiment  
explosion  
exterior  
external  
extinct

## **F**

Fahrenheit scale  
fall  
family (1)\*

family (2)\*  
fat  
fault  
feature  
feces  
female  
fern  
fertile  
fertilization  
fertilize (1)\*  
fertilize (2)\*  
fertilizer  
fiber (1)\*  
fiber (2)\*  
filament (1)\*  
filament (2)\*  
filter (1)\*  
filter (2)\*  
filtration  
fish  
fission  
flask  
flatworm  
flood  
floodplain  
flourine  
flow  
flower  
fluid  
fluorescence  
focal point  
focus  
food  
food chain  
food pyramid  
food web  
force (1)\*  
force (2)\*  
forecast  
forest  
form  
fossil  
fossil fuel  
frame of reference  
freeze  
freezing point  
frequency  
fresh water  
friction

front  
frost  
fruit  
fuel  
fulcrum  
function  
fungus  
fuse  
fusion

## **G**

galaxy  
gallbladder  
gamete  
gamma ray  
garbage  
gas  
gauge  
gene  
generate  
generation  
genetic material  
genetics  
genome  
genotype  
genus  
geography  
geologic time  
geology  
geothermal energy  
geotropism  
germ  
germinate  
geyser  
gill  
glacier  
gland  
global warming  
glucose  
gold  
graduated cylinder  
grain  
gram  
graph  
grass  
grassland  
gravitation  
gravity  
greenhouse effect

greenhouse gas  
groundwater  
group

## **H**

habitat  
hail  
half-life  
halogen  
hardness  
harmful  
hazard  
heart  
heart rate  
heat (1)\*  
heat (2)\*  
heat energy  
height  
helium  
hemisphere  
hemoglobin  
herbaceous  
herbivore  
hereditary  
heredity  
hertz  
heterogeneous  
heterozygous  
hibernate  
high frequency  
high tide  
homeostasis  
homogeneous  
homologous  
homozygous  
horizon  
horizontal  
hormone  
horsepower  
human  
humidity  
humus  
hurricane  
hydrocarbon  
hydrochloric acid  
hydroelectric energy  
hydrogen  
hydrologic cycle  
hydrosphere

hygrometer  
hypothesis

## **I**

ice  
Ice Age  
iceberg  
igneous rock  
illuminate  
image  
immune system  
immunity  
immunization  
impurity  
incandescent  
incline  
inclined plane  
increase  
indicator  
indirect contact  
individual  
inert  
inertia  
infection  
inflammation  
influenza  
information  
infrared light  
ingredient  
inhale  
inherited  
inorganic  
inorganic matter  
insect  
insolation  
instinct  
instrument  
insulate  
insulin  
intensity  
interact  
interference  
interior  
internal  
Internet  
intertidal zone  
invention  
invertebrate  
investigate

invisible  
involuntary  
iodine  
ion  
ionic bond  
ionosphere  
iron  
irreversible  
irrigation  
isomer  
isothermal  
isotope

## **J**

jet stream  
jetty  
joint  
joule

## **K**

Kelvin scale  
kidney  
kilogram  
kilometer  
kinetic energy  
kingdom  
knot

## **L**

laboratory  
lake  
landfill  
landform  
landslide  
large intestine  
larva (1)\*  
larva (2)\*  
larynx  
laser  
latitude  
lava  
law  
layer  
leach  
leaf  
length  
lens  
levee  
level (1)\*

level (2)\*  
lever  
lichen  
life cycle  
ligament  
light  
light ray  
lightning  
light-year  
limb  
lime  
limestone  
lipid  
liquid  
liter  
lithosphere  
litmus paper  
litter  
liver  
livestock  
living  
loam  
location  
longitude  
longitudinal wave  
loudness  
low frequency  
low tide  
lubricate  
luminous  
lunar eclipse  
lung  
luster  
lymph node

## **M**

machine  
magma  
magnet  
magnetic field  
magnetism  
magnify  
magnitude  
major weather element  
male  
malleable  
mammal  
mammary gland  
mantle

manure  
map  
marble  
marine  
marrow  
marsh  
mass (1)\*  
mass (2)\*  
matter  
measure  
measurement  
mechanical energy  
medication  
medicine  
medium  
megahertz  
meiosis  
melt  
melting point  
membrane  
mesosphere  
metal  
metamorphic rock  
metamorphosis  
meteor  
meteorite  
meteoroid  
meteorologist  
meteorology  
meter  
methane  
method  
metric  
metric system  
microbe  
microorganism  
microscope  
microscopic  
microwave  
mid-ocean ridge  
midtide  
migration  
mildew  
miles per hour  
Milky Way  
milligram  
milliliter  
millimeter  
mimicry

mineral  
mirror  
mitochondrion  
mitosis  
mixture  
model  
moisture  
mold  
molecule  
mollusk  
molten  
momentum  
moneran  
monocotyledon  
monomer  
moon  
moonlight  
moss  
motion  
mountain  
mountain range  
mud  
mudflat  
multicellular  
muscle  
muscle cell  
mushroom  
mutation  
mutualism

## **N**

native  
natural gas  
natural resource  
natural selection  
natural world  
nature  
navigation  
nebula  
negative charge  
nephron  
nerve  
nerve cell  
nervous system  
network  
neuron  
neutral  
neutralization  
neutron

newton  
Newton's laws  
niche  
nicotine  
night  
nitrate  
nitrogen  
nitrogen cycle  
noble gas  
nocturnal  
nonliving  
nonmetal  
nonrenewable resource  
North Pole  
Northern Hemisphere  
nova  
nuclear energy  
nuclear fusion  
nuclear membrane  
nucleolus  
nucleus (1)\*  
nucleus (2)\*  
nutrient  
nutrition

## **O**

oasis  
object  
objective lens  
observation  
occur  
ocean  
ocean floor  
ocean wave  
offspring  
omnivore  
opaque  
optical  
orbit  
order (1)\*  
order (2)\*  
organ  
organelle  
organic  
organic matter  
organism  
origin  
osmosis  
output

ovary  
ovule  
oxygen  
oxygen-rich blood  
ozonation  
ozone  
ozone layer

## **P**

paleontology  
pancreas  
Pangaea  
parallel  
parasite  
parent  
part per million  
particle  
pathogen  
peat  
pebble  
pendulum  
penetrate  
percentage  
Periodic Table  
periscope  
peristalsis  
permafrost  
permeable  
pesticide  
petal  
petrify  
petroleum  
pH  
pH scale  
phase (1)\*  
phase (2)\*  
phenomenon  
phenotype  
photon  
photosphere  
photosynthesis  
photosynthesizer  
phototropism  
phylum  
physical change  
physical property  
physical structure  
physics  
phytoplankton

pigment  
pistil  
pitch  
pixel  
planet  
plant  
plasma (1)\*  
plasma (2)\*  
plastic  
plate  
plate tectonics  
plateau  
platelet  
pneumonia  
pollen  
pollination  
pollute  
polygon  
polymer  
pond  
population  
porous  
position  
positive charge  
potential energy  
power  
precipitate  
precipitation  
predator  
prediction  
preserve  
pressure  
prevent  
prey  
primary color  
Prime Meridian  
prism  
procedure  
process  
produce  
producer  
product  
project (1)\*  
project (2)\*  
projectile  
property  
protection  
protective coloration  
protein

protist  
proton  
pulley  
pulse  
pulse rate  
pulse-recovery time  
Punnett square  
pupa  
purify  
pyramid

## **Q**

qualitative  
quality  
quantitative  
quantity  
quasar

## **R**

radar  
radial symmetry  
radiant energy  
radiation  
radio wave  
radioactivity  
rain  
rain forest  
rainbow  
ramp  
random  
ratio  
ray  
reactant  
reactivity  
reagent  
receptor  
recessive  
rectum  
recycle  
red blood cell  
reflection  
refraction  
region  
regulate  
relationship  
relative  
relative humidity  
relative motion  
relax

renewable resource  
repel  
representation  
reproduce  
reproduction  
reptile  
research  
resistance  
resistor  
resonance  
resource  
respiration  
respiratory system  
respond  
response  
resting rate  
result  
retina  
reusable resource  
reuse  
reversible  
revolve  
Richter scale  
rift  
river  
rock  
rock cycle  
rock layer  
root  
rotate  
roundworm  
runoff  
rust

## **S**

sac  
salinity  
saliva  
salivary gland  
salt  
salt water  
sand  
satellite  
saturate  
scale (1)\*  
scale (2)\*  
scale (3)\*  
scavenger  
science

scientific name  
scientist  
screw  
sea  
sea level  
season  
seaweed  
secrete  
sediment  
sedimentary rock  
sedimentation  
seed  
seed leaf  
seep  
segment  
seismograph  
semipermeable  
sense  
septum  
settle  
sewer  
sex  
sex cell  
sexual reproduction  
shadow  
shellfish  
shelter  
shock wave  
shore  
shrub  
silt  
silver  
similar  
simple machine  
single-celled  
sinkhole  
skeletal muscle  
skeleton  
skin  
skull  
sky  
sky condition  
sleet  
slide  
slope  
small intestine  
smooth muscle  
snow  
soak

sodium chloride  
software  
soil  
solar eclipse  
solar energy  
solar flare  
solar system  
solid  
solstice  
solubility  
soluble  
solute  
solution  
solvent  
sonar  
sonic boom  
sort  
sound  
sound wave  
source  
South Pole  
Southern Hemisphere  
space (1)\*  
space (2)\*  
space shuttle  
specialization  
species  
specific heat  
speed (1)\*  
speed (2)\*  
speed of light  
speed of sound  
sperm  
sphere  
spinal cord  
spine (1)\*  
spine (2)\*  
sponge  
spontaneous  
spore  
spread  
spring (1)\*  
spring (2)\*  
sprout  
stability  
stage (1)\*  
stage (2)\*  
stalactite  
stalagmite

stalk (1)\*  
stalk (2)\*  
stamen  
star  
starch  
starve  
state of matter  
static electricity  
stem  
stigma  
stimulus  
stomach  
store  
storm surge  
stratosphere  
stratum  
stratus cloud  
stream  
striated muscle  
structural unit  
structure  
style  
subsoil  
substance  
succession  
suffocate  
sugar  
summer  
sun  
sun ray  
sundial  
sunlight  
sunrise  
sunset  
supernova  
support  
surface  
surface water  
surround  
surroundings  
survival  
suspension  
swallow  
swamp  
sweat  
symbiosis  
symbol  
symmetry  
symptom

synthesis  
system

## **T**

table  
tap water  
taproot  
technology  
tectonic plate  
telescope  
temperature  
tendon  
terminal velocity  
test sample  
testes  
texture  
theory  
thermal energy  
thermodynamics  
thermometer  
thermosphere  
thorax  
threaten  
three-dimensional  
throat  
thunder  
thunderstorm  
tidal wave  
tide  
tide pool  
tilt  
time  
time interval  
time of year  
time period  
tissue  
topsoil  
tornado  
toxic  
trachea  
trait  
transfer  
transformer  
translucent  
transmit  
transparent  
transpiration  
transport  
transportation

transverse wave  
tree  
tree sap  
trench  
triangle  
tributary  
triceps  
tropical storm  
tropics  
tropism  
troposphere  
trough  
trunk  
tsunami  
tube  
tumor  
tundra  
turbidity  
two-dimensional  
typhoon

## **U**

ultrasonic  
ultraviolet light  
unbalanced force  
unit  
universal solvent  
universe  
ureter  
urethra  
urine

## **V**

vaccination  
vacuole  
vacuum  
valley  
vapor  
vaporization  
variable  
variation  
vegetation  
vein  
velocity  
vent  
ventral  
ventricle  
vertebra  
vertebrate

vertical  
vibration  
villus  
virus  
viscosity  
viscous  
visible  
visible light  
vitamin  
vocal cord  
volcanic eruption  
volcano  
volt  
voltage  
volume (1)\*  
volume (2)\*  
voluntary

## **W**

warm-blooded  
waste  
waste disposal  
waste material  
waste treatment  
water  
water cycle  
water pressure  
water treatment  
water vapor  
watershed  
watt  
wave  
wavelength  
wax  
weather (1)\*  
weather (2)\*  
weather forecast  
weathering (1)\*  
weathering (2)\*  
wedge  
weed  
weight  
well  
wetlands  
wetness  
whale  
wheel  
white blood cell  
width

wildlife  
wind  
wind chill  
wind speed  
winter  
wire  
woodland  
woody  
work  
worm

**X**

x-ray

**Y**

yeast

**Z**

zinc  
zoology  
zygote

## Multiple Meaning Words \*

### A

antenna (1) ..... slender structure on top of insects/crustaceans (*feelers*)

antenna (2) ..... television antennas

aquarium (1) ..... small glass container

aquarium (2) ..... building where a collection of organisms are exhibited

### B

body (1) ..... complete physical structure of a plant or animal.

body (2) ..... moon, planet, star, or other object in the universe

body (3) ..... a part of Earth's surface that is covered with water

breed (1) ..... (*verb*) to produce offspring (*to conceive*)

breed (2) ..... (*noun*) a group of organisms having common ancestors  
and that are similar in most characteristics (*the kind*)

### C

charge (1) ..... (*verb*) to charge something

charge (2) ..... (*noun*) excess or deficiency of electrons

community (1) ..... group of organisms living in the same environment at the same time

community (2) ..... can be urban, suburban, rural

cone (1) ..... landform that has steep slopes that come together at a point at the top

cone (2) ..... "pine cone"

cone (3) ..... solid object having a base that is a circle and sides that taper up to a point

current (1) ..... flow of electricity through a conductor

current (2) ..... flow of a fluid

cycle (1) ..... series of events that occur regularly and repeat (*for example, the cycle of the seasons*)

cycle (2) ..... pass through a series of events or conditions (*for example, the water cycle*)

### E

Earth (1) ..... the planet on which we live

earth (2) ..... loose soft material that makes up a large part of the land surface

egg (1) ..... thin-shelled reproductive body laid by female birds and reptiles

egg (2) ..... egg cell

### F

family (1) ..... group of organisms containing one genus or several genera

family (2) ..... group of organisms living together

fertilize (1) .....add nutrients to soil that help plants grow  
fertilize (2) .....join a male sperm with a female egg

fiber (1) .....material in food that is not digested (*for example, brown rice, fruit and oatmeal*)

fiber (2) .....long, slender, threadlike object or structure

filament (1) .....part of the stamen that supports the anther

filament (2) .....a fine or thinly spun thread, fiber, or wire

filter (1) .....porous material used to separate matter from a gas or liquid (*for example, sand or cloth*)

filter (2) .....remove substances from a liquid or gas (*for example, kidneys filter wastes from the blood*)

force (1) ..... (*noun*) push or pull on an object

force (2) ..... (*verb*) to cause something to move by pushing or pulling

## H

heat (1) ..... (*noun*) form of energy

heat (2) ..... (*verb*) to transfer energy from one object at a higher temperature to another object at a lower temperature

## L

larva (1) .....second stage in the life cycle of an insect (*for example, caterpillars are larvae*)

larva (2) .....early stage of life for organisms that go through metamorphosis

level (1) .....tool used to establish a horizontal line (used in construction)

level (2) .....position on a scale showing amount, intensity, or quality

## M

mass (1) .....measure of the amount of matter in an object (*measurement*)

mass (2) .....an abnormal growth of cells or a quantity of matter without a definite shape (*accumulate*)

## N

nucleus (1) .....region inside the cell that contains the genetic material

nucleus (2) .....central part of an atom made up of protons and neutrons

## O

order (1) .....group of organisms containing one or more families

order (2) .....arrangement of two or more objects or events according to specific criteria

## P

phase (1) .....phase of the moon is the appearance of the moon as seen from Earth (*moon phase*)

phase (2) .....one of the three states in which matter occurs (*solid, liquid, and gas*)

plasma (1) .....liquid part of the blood  
plasma (2) ..... hot, electrically charged gas

project (1) ..... *(verb)* stick out or extend out in space  
project (2) ..... *(noun)* activity or set of activities directed to an overall goal

## **S**

scale (1) ..... device used for weighing things *(weight scale)*  
scale (2) ..... graduated sequence of marks that is used for measuring or as an indicator  
*(Fahrenheit scale for example)*

scale (3) ..... plate-like structure that forms part of the body covering of many animals  
such as fish and reptiles

space (1) ..... region beyond Earth's atmosphere in which the solar system, stars, and  
galaxies exist

space (2) ..... distance or area between, around, above, or within things

speed (1) ..... measure of the distance an object moves in a given amount of time

speed (2) ..... measure of how long it takes something to happen

spine (1) ..... backbone or vertebral column

spine (2) ..... needle-like structure on some organisms

spring (1) ..... elastic device that returns to its original shape when released after being  
distorted

spring (2) ..... season between winter and summer

stage (1) ..... platform on a microscope that supports a slide for viewing

stage (2) ..... one of the periods of an insect's life cycle

stalk (1) ..... *(noun)* slender elongated part of a plant that supports something else *(stalk  
of a plant)*

stalk (2) ..... *(verb)* hunt for prey

## **V**

volume (1) ..... amount of space occupied by matter

volume (2) ..... loudness of a sound

## **W**

weather (1) ..... *(verb)* undergo change as a result of exposure to the atmosphere

weather (2) ..... *(noun)* term meteorologists use for the condition of the air around us at a  
particular time and place *(today's weather)*

weathering (1) ..... process of breaking rock into soil, sand, and other tiny pieces

weathering (2) ..... breakdown and alteration of rocks and minerals due to the weather  
conditions in the area