

SCIENCE ALPHABET REFERENCE

Aa

ATOM

The basic unit of a chemical element.

Bb

BIOSPHERE

The regions of the surface, atmosphere, and hydrosphere of the earth occupied by living organisms.

Cc

CELL

The smallest structural and functional unit of an organism.

Dd

DENSITY

The degree of compactness of a substance (mass per unit volume).

Ee

EROSION

The process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents.

Ff

FRICTION

The resistance that one surface or object encounters when moving over another.

Gg

GRAVITY

The force that attracts a body toward the center of the earth.

Hh

HYPOTHESIS

A proposed explanation made on the basis of limited evidence.

Ii

INERTIA

A tendency to do nothing or to remain unchanged.

Jj

JOULE

The SI unit of work or energy.

Kk

KINETIC

Relating to or resulting from motion.

Ll

LITHOSPHERE

The rigid outer part of the earth, consisting of the crust and upper mantle.

Mm

MITOSIS

A type of cell division that results in two daughter cells.

Nn

NUCLEUS

The central and most important part of an object, movement, or group.

Oo

OSMOSIS

Process by which molecules pass through a semipermeable membrane.

Pp

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

The process by which plants use sunlight to synthesize foods.

Qq

QUARTZ

A hard white or colorless mineral consisting of silicon dioxide.

Rr

REFRACTION

The bending of light as it passes from one medium to another.

Ss

SOLUBILITY

The ability of a solid, liquid, or gaseous chemical substance to dissolve.

Tt

TECTONICS

Large-scale processes affecting the structure of the earth's crust.

Uu

UNIVERSE

All existing matter and space considered as a whole.

Vv

VELOCITY

The speed of something in a given direction.

Ww

WAVELENGTH

The distance between successive crests of a wave.

Xx

XYLEM

The vascular tissue in plants that conducts water upward from the root.

Yy

YIELD

Zz

The amount of product obtained in a chemical reaction.

ZYGOTE

A diploid cell resulting from the fusion of two haploid gametes.