Glossary

Α

absolute magnitude: the brightness of a star as it would be if it were a standard distance from Earth

aircraft: a vehicle that travels through the air, usually no higher than 20 km above ground

alchemist: an experimenter—part philosopher, part scientist, part magician; some alchemists believed that metal could be turned into gold

alkali metals: elements that occupy the far left column (first group) of the periodic table

alloy: a metal made by combining two or more different metals or metals and nonmetals

ampere: the SI unit used to measure electric current; symbol: A

anaphase: the phase of mitosis during which the chromosomes split and single strands of genetic information move to opposite ends of the cell

anode: a positive plate that produces electrons in a fuel cell

anther: part of the stamen, the male structure, in the flower of a plant; holds pollen grains

apparent magnitude: the brightness of a star as it appears to a person on Earth

asexual reproduction: any of several forms of reproduction that results in offspring that are genetically identical to the parent

asteroid: a small rocky object; from the Greek work *astron*, meaning "starlike"

asteroid belt: a ring around the Sun made up of thousands of asteroids

astronomical unit: a distance measure (a.u.) equal to the average distance between Earth and the Sun, used to compare large distances in the solar system

astronomy: the study of what is beyond Earth

atom: a particle in an element; from the Greek word *atomos*, meaning "indivisible"

atomic mass: the average mass of an atom of an element

atomic model: a theory proposed by John Dalton in 1808 to explain why elements differ from each other and from non-elements

atomic number: the number of protons in an atom

atomic radius: the average distance from the nucleus to the "outer edge" of a spherical atom

axis: an imaginary straight line joining the North Pole and the South Pole



benign: the term used to describe a cancerous tumour that remains in a confined area, causing little damage to the organism

Big Bang theory: a model of the beginning of the universe

binary fission: the form of asexual reproduction in which the organism splits directly into two equal-sized offspring, each with the parent's genetic material

black hole: the high-density core left when a star about 30 times the mass of the Sun dies

Bohr diagram: a diagram, representing the electronic structure of an element, that comprises electrons in a series of concentric circles (energy levels or orbits) drawn around the central nucleus, containing the symbol of the element

Bohr-Rutherford diagram: a diagram, summarizing the numbers and positions of all three subatomic particles in an atom, that comprises electrons in a series of concentric circles (energy levels or orbits) drawn around a central nucleus, containing the numbers of protons and neutrons in the element

bond: a concept used in models that represents the forces that hold atoms together

branch circuit: a separate circuit through which current passes to each load in a parallel circuit

brittle: the physical property of a substance that shatters easily

budding: the form of asexual reproduction in which the offspring begins as a small outgrowth of the parent and eventually breaks off, becoming an organism on its own



cancer: the term for a group of diseases associated with uncontrolled, unregulated cell division

carcinogen: a substance or energy that causes a mutation in the genes that regulate cell division

cathode: a negative plate in a fuel cell

cell cycle: the sequence of events in a cell from one division to another

cell membrane: a covering around a cell that controls the movement of materials into and out of the cell

cell wall: the non-living outermost covering of a plant cell

centriole: a small protein structure in animal cells, critical to cell division

ceramic: a material manufactured by heating minerals and rocks

CFCs: chlorofluorocarbons; compound made of carbon, chlorine, and fluorine atoms, developed by scientists in the 1930s

charge: a negative or positive quantity of electricity that builds up on an object

charging by contact: transferring an electric charge from one substance to another by touching

charging by friction: transferring an electric charge from one substance to another by a rubbing action

charging by induction: transferring an electric charge from one substance to another without direct contact

chemical change: the alteration of a substance into one or more different substances with different properties

chemical formula: the combination of symbols that represents a particular compound

chemical group: the set of elements that appears in the same column in the periodic table

chemical property: the characteristic behaviour that occurs when one substance interacts with another to become a new substance

chemical symbol: an abbreviation for the name of an element

chemical test: a test that produces a distinctive chemical reaction to identify an unknown substance

chloroplast: the organelle in a plant cell that contains chlorophyll

chromosome: a threadlike structure that contains genetic information

cilia: tiny small hairs on an animal cell

circuit breaker: a safety switch that controls the amount of current that flows in a circuit

circuit diagram: a drawing that uses a special set of symbols to represent the electrical components and wiring in an electric circuit

cloning: the technical process by which identical offspring are formed from a single cell or tissue

combining capacity: the ability of an element to combine with other elements

combustible: the chemical property of a substance that allows

it to burn when exposed to flame and oxygen

combustion: the chemical reaction that occurs when a substance reacts rapidly with oxygen and releases energy

comet: a chunk of ice and dust that travels in a very long orbit around the Sun

composite: a material formed by combining two other materials

compound: a pure substance that contains two or more different elements in a fixed proportion

conception: the process of fertilization in which the head of the sperm cell penetrates the cell membrane of the egg

conjugation: the form of sexual reproduction in which two cells come together and exchange genetic information

connector: a conducting wire that provides a controlled path for electric current to flow to each part of the circuit

constellation: a group of stars that forms shapes or patterns

corpus luteum: a tissue inside the ovary that secretes hormones essential for pregnancy

corrosion: a slow chemical change that occurs when a metal reacts with oxygen to form oxide

cosmology: the study of the origin and changes of the universe

crossbreeding: the process of taking pollen from one plant and using it to fertilize the eggs of another

crystal: a solid mineral in which a regular pattern of three-dimensional shapes is visible

cytokinesis: the process in cell division in which the cytoplasm and its contents separate into equal parts

cytoplasm: the area of a cell where nutrients are absorbed, transported, and processed



decay: splitting apart of unstable nuclei to produce radioactive particles

density: the mass per unit volume of a substance, usually expressed in kilograms per cubic metre or grams per cubic centimetre

deoxyribonucleic acid: the genetic chemical found in all living things

discharge: to neutralize or remove all electric charges

discharge at a point: removing an electric charge by repelling electrons off the tip of a conductor that is pointed at the end

distribution panel: a metal box where all circuit breakers (or fuses) are connected to each of the separate circuits

DNA: *See* **deoxyribonucleic acid ductile:** the physical property of a solid that allows it to be pulled into wires



Earth-centred universe: a belief that the stars were attached to a large ball that revolved around Earth once every day

efficiency: a comparison between the amount of useful energy produced (output energy) and the original amount of energy used (input energy)

egg: the female sex cell; a package designed to feed and protect a developing embryo

electric charge: a negative or positive quantity of electricity that builds up on an object

electric circuit: a controlled path through which electric current passes

electric current: a measure of the rate at which electric charges flow; symbol: I

electric potential: the electrical energy that an electron possesses

electrical conductor: a substance in which electrons can move freely from one atom to another

electrical energy: the energy released into an electrical load by moving electrons

electrical insulator: a substance in which electrons cannot move freely from one atom to another

electrical load: anything that converts electrical energy into the form of energy required

electrical power: the rate at which electrical energy is used

electrodes: metal plates, usually zinc and copper, that are placed in liquid or gel in a voltaic cell

electrolysis: the use of electricity to cause chemical changes in solutions

electrolyte: the liquid in a voltaic cell that conducts an electric current

electromagnetic spectrum: the broad band of energies that comprises radio waves, microwaves, infrared rays, visible light, ultraviolet rays, X rays, and gamma rays

electron: a negatively charged particle with a relative mass of about 1/2000 of the mass of a proton or a neutron

electrostatic series: a continuum of substances listed in order of increasing tendency to gain electrons

electrostatics: the study of static electric charge

element: a pure substance that cannot be broken down into simpler substances

embryo: the stage in development when a fertilized egg has divided to form a mass of at least 64 cells

endometrium: the thick lining of the uterus

endoplasmic reticulum: a series of "canals" that carry materials throughout a cell

energy: the ability to do work **energy level:** the circular path or orbit around the nucleus associated with individual electrons energy meter: a meter that measures the total amount of electrical energy used in a building excited state: the condition of an electron when it is energized sufficiently to jump to a higher

external fertilization: a process in which the male sperm cells are united with the female egg cells outside the female's body

F

orbit

fertilizer: a chemical substance added to the soil to increase plant growth

flagellum: a whiplike tail on the outside of the cell membrane that helps the cell move

flame test: an experimental technique using a flame to determine the identity of a metal

flammable: the chemical property of a substance that allows it to burn when exposed to flame and oxygen

follicle: a group of cells, including a reproductive cell, inside the ovary of the female

fossil fuel: coal, oil, natural gas, and gasoline formed from the long-buried remains of organisms

fragmentation: the form of asexual reproduction in which a new organism is formed from a part that breaks off from the parent

free fall: a continuous falling effect of a spacecraft created by the combination of the gravitational pull of Earth and the forward speed of the spacecraft

fuel cell: a cell that produces electricity without combustion, using hydrogen and oxygen

fuse: a piece of material that will melt (fuse) when heated to a high temperature by the current flowing through it

G

galaxy: a huge collection of gas, dust, and hundreds of millions of stars and planets

gas giant: planet with an atmosphere that consists mainly of the low-density gases hydrogen and helium **gene:** a unit of the genetic information that determines a specific characteristic of an individual

geosynchronous orbit: the orbit of a satellite around Earth that takes 24 h, allowing it to remain in the same location above Earth's surface

GFCI: See ground fault circuit interrupter

Global Positioning System: the 24 satellites used for search and rescue operations that travel in 12-h orbits, 20 000 km above Earth's surface

Golgi apparatus: an organelle that stores proteins and packages them for release inside or outside the cell

gravity: the force that pulls objects toward each other

ground: connect to Earth

ground fault circuit interrupter: a special kind of combination outlet socket and circuit breaker that responds to very small changes in current; (GFCI)

ground state: the low-energy state that is the normal orbit of an electron

ground terminal: a third round hole underneath the other two holes in an outlet socket, which is connected to the ground terminal inside the distribution panel

grounding pin: the third pin, containing the grounding wire, in the three-pin plug of an appliance that grounds the appliance to the circuit breaker

group: a column of the periodic table

Н

halogens: reactive nonmetals that occur in different states and occupy the seventeenth column of the periodic table

hardness: the physical property of a solid that is the measure of its resistance to being scratched or dented

heavy metal: an element that is shiny, malleable, and conducts electricity, is generally solid at room temperature, and has very high density **hermaphrodite:** any organism that creates both male and female sex cells

heterogeneous mixture: a substance in which the different components are identifiable and can be separated by physical means

hormone: any chemical that acts as a messenger between cells

hydrocarbon: a compound containing hydrogen and carbon; found in fossil fuels



induced charge separation: a slight shift in position of electrons that produces opposite charges on the two sides of a particle

inner planet: one of four small planets close to the Sun, with a density roughly the same as the density of rock; also known as a terrestrial planet

internal fertilization: a process in which the male sperm is united with the female egg cell inside the female's body

International Space Station (ISS): a space station that involves the cooperation of space agencies from Brazil, Canada, Europe, Japan, Russia, and the United States

input energy: the amount of energy used to make electricity

interphase: the phase of mitosis during which the cell grows and prepares for cell division by duplicating its genetic information

ion: an atom that has become charged by gaining or losing one or more electrons

isotope: any of two or more forms of an element, each with the same number of protons but with different numbers of neutrons



joule: the SI unit for measuring energy; symbol: J

K

kilowatt hour: the unit for measuring energy; the number of kilowatts of electrical power used multiplied by the number of hours; symbol: kW·h



launcher: a device that carries a payload into space

lead-acid cell: a reusable energy source in which the chemical change is reversed by connecting the cell to a source of electrical energy until the cell is recharged and the electrodes return to their original state

light-year: the distance that light rays travel in one year $(9.46 \times 10^{12} \text{ km})$

live wire: an insulated wire that carries electrical energy into a building

low Earth orbit: an orbit just above Earth's atmosphere

lysosome: a saclike organelle used to break down large compounds



main breaker switch: the central location in a building where the two live wires are each connected to the circuit breaker

malignant: the term used to describe a cancerous tumour that spawns cells that can break away and move to other areas of the body

malleable: the physical property that allows the shape of a solid to be changed

mass number: the sum of the protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom

matter: anything that takes up space and has mass

meiosis: the process that forms sex cells

Mendeleev's periodic law: a statement summarizing Dmitri Mendeleev's observations that elements arranged in order of increasing atomic mass reflect a pattern in which similar properties occur regularly

menstruation: the process in nonpregnant women during which the endometrium is shed from the uterus through the vagina

metal: a solid that is generally shiny and malleable and a good conductor of heat and electricity

metalloids: elements that possess both metallic and nonmetallic properties

metallurgy: the technology of separating metals from their ores

metaphase: the phase of mitosis in which the chromosomes line up in the middle of the cell

meteor: a bright streak of light across the sky caused by a meteoroid

meteorite: a meteoroid that reaches the ground

meteoroid: a lump of rock or metal trapped by Earth's gravity and pulled down through Earth's atmosphere

microgravity: See free fall

mineral: a naturally occurring compound, sometimes containing metal combined with oxygen, sulfur, or other elements

mitochondrion: an oval-shaped organelle that provides cells with energy

mitosis: the process by which nuclear material is divided during cell division

mixture: a substance that contains two different pure substances or types of particles

model: a way to represent a thing or process

modern periodic law: a law stating that elements arranged in order of increasing atomic number reflect a pattern in which similar properties occur regularly

molecule: the combination of two or more atoms

mutation: a change in the genetic code



nebula: a huge cloud of dust and gases in outer space; the beginning and ending of a star

negative charge: an excess of electrons

negative terminal: the plate in a voltaic cell where electrons collect

neutral wire: a wire that leads from the main electrical supply outside to the inside of a building where it is attached with a special wire to the plumbing system or to a metal stake driven into the ground

neutralize: to discharge or remove all electric charges

neutron: a neutral particle located in the nucleus, with a relative mass of 1

neutron star: an extremely dense star composed of neutrons; results when a star about 10 times the mass of the Sun dies

noble gases: inert gases, found on the far right column of the periodic table, that almost never form chemical compounds with other elements

nonluminous: not making or emitting its own light; reflecting light from other light sources

nonmetal: one of a class of elements that are not good conductors of heat or electricity

nonrenewable energy resources: sources of fuel that cannot be replaced in a reasonable amount of time

nuclear fusion: a process during which substances fuse to form new substances, releasing huge amounts of heat, light, and other forms of energy

nuclear model: Ernest Rutherford's model of an atom describing a dense, positive nucleus around which negative electrons appear to occupy a large amount of space

nucleolus: a spherical structure, within the nucleus of some cells, associated with the production of proteins

nucleus: 1. the central core of an atom, which contains two kinds of particles: the positively charged proton and the uncharged neutron; 2. the main organelle of the cell, which directs the cell's activities

nutrient: a chemical compound necessary for growth



observatory: a large building with an open dome through which a telescope provides a view of planets, stars, and other objects in the universe

ohm: the SI unit for electric resistance; symbol: Ω

ohmic resistor: a type of electrical load that does not change electrical resistance with temperature

open circuit: a circuit this is not operating and through which no current is flowing

orbit: 1. a circular path around the nucleus associated with individual electrons; 2. a circular or elliptical path followed by one object as it revolves around a much larger object

orbital period: the period of time required for an orbiting object to complete one revolution of the central object

ore: rock containing a valuable mineral

organelle: a specialized structure inside plant and animal cells

outer planet: a planet in the solar system beyond the four inner planets; one of the four gas giants or Pluto

outer space: everything outside of Earth's atmosphere

output energy: the amount of energy produced

ovary: an organ or structure designed to contain female sex cells; the primary reproductive organ of the female mammal

oviduct: the part of the female reproductive system where fertilization of the egg cell takes place

ovulation: the process during which the ovary wall bursts and the egg cell is released into the oviduct



parallel circuit: an electric circuit in which each electrical load is connected to the energy source by its own separate path or branch circuit

parturition: the process of human birth

payload: a satellite, piloted spacecraft, or cargo launched into space

period: a horizontal row of elements in the periodic table

periodic table: an organized arrangement of elements that explains and predicts physical and chemical properties

periodic trend: a gradual change in the properties of elements across a row in the periodic table

photoelectric cell: a cell that converts light energy directly into electrical energy

photosynthesis: a chemical process during which plants combine carbon dioxide from the air, water, and energy from the Sun to produce sugars and oxygen gas

physical change: a change in the state or form of a substance that does not change the original substance

physical property: a characteristic or description of a substance that can be used to identify it

pistil: the female reproductive structure in the flower of a plant, composed of the stigma, style, and ovary

placenta: an organ in a pregnant woman formed by the blood vessels from the mother and the embryo growing side-by-side

planet: a large piece of matter, generally spherical, that revolves around a star

planetary system: a group of objects that includes at least one planet in orbit around a star

polarized plug: a plug with two different-sized prongs, one narrow connected to the 120-V conductor through a terminal in a lamp or appliance and one wider connected to the neutral wire in a distribution panel

pollen: the male sex cells of a flower

pollination: the process by which pollen is moved from the anther to the egg cells to fertilize those cells

polymer: a material made of long molecules composed of repeating subunits

positive charge: the charge on a proton; a deficiency of electrons

positive terminal: the plate in a voltaic cell where positive charges collect

potential difference: the loss of electric potential produced by electrical resistance as a current flows through a conductor

precipitate: a solid, insoluble material that forms in a liquid solution

primary cell: a disposable energy source in which the chemical reactions use up the materials in the cell as electrons flow from it

products: the substances resulting from a chemical reaction

prophase: the phase of mitosis in which the individual chromosomes become visible

proton: a positively charged particle located in the nucleus, with a relative mass of 1

pulsar: a type of neutron star that emits pulses of very high-energy radio waves

pure substance: a substance that contains only one kind of particle

Q

quasar: an object that looks like a faint star but emits up to 100 times more energy than our entire galaxy; from the expression "quasistellar radio source," which means a starlike object that emits radio waves



radar: a device that emits bursts of radio waves and picks up their reflections to detect the location of objects and determine how far away they are

radio telescope: a device that receives radio waves from space

radioactive: the state of an unstable element in which nuclei may break apart, ejecting very highenergy particles

radioisotope: an atom with an unstable nucleus

reactants: the substances participating in a chemical reaction

red giant: a star, near the end of its life, that becomes larger and redder as it runs out of hydrogen fuel

red shift: a movement toward the red end of the spectrum

red supergiant: a star with a mass 10 times or more larger than the Sun's near the end of its life, that becomes larger and redder as it runs out of hydrogen fuel

reflecting telescope: an optical device that uses a concave mirror to gather light and make distant objects appear larger

refracting telescope: an optical device that uses lenses to gather and focus light and make distant objects appear larger

regeneration: the ability to regrow a tissue, an organ, or a part of the body

remote sensing: using imaging devices to make observations from a distance, such as from a satellite in low Earth orbit

renewable energy resources: sources of fuel that constantly replenish themselves

reproductive cells: cells that produce sex cells through the process of meiosis

resistance: the ability to impede the flow of electrons in conductors

resistor: an electrical device designed to impede the flow of electrons in conductors

revolution: the movement of one object travelling around another

ribosome: an organelle involved in building proteins essential for cell growth and reproduction

rotation: the spinning of an object around its axis



satellite: an object that travels in orbit around another object

secondary cell: a reusable energy source in which one chemical process discharges the cell and another recharges it to its original state

selective breeding: a method of reproduction that results in several generations of offspring all having the same desired characteristics

seminiferous tubules: tiny, twisting tubes inside the testis that produce sperm cells

series circuit: an electric circuit in which the electrical loads are wired to one another in a single path

sexual reproduction: reproduction in which two sex cells unite to form a zygote

solar system: the Sun and all the objects that travel around it, including the nine known planets and the moons of those planets

solubility: the ability of a substance to dissolve in a solvent

solution: a mixture made up of liquids, solids, or gases

somatic cells: cells that reproduce only by normal cell division

space probe: an unpiloted spacecraft that is sent to moons, planets, comets, the Sun, and other parts of the solar system to relay information back to Earth

spacecraft: a vehicle designed to travel in the near vacuum of space

spectroscope: a device that splits light energy into patterns of colour

spectrum: the band of colours produced when light is split into its component frequencies

sperm: the male sex cellspinoff: an extra benefit from technology originally developed for another purpose

spore: a reproductive body encased within a protective shell

spore formation: the form of asexual reproduction in which the organism undergoes cell division to produce smaller, identical cells, called spores, that are usually housed within the parent cell

stamen: the male reproductive structure in the flower of a plant, composed of the anther and the filament

standard atomic notation: an internationally recognized system used to identify chemical substances

static electricity: a charge on a substance that stays in the same place

star: a large collection of matter that emits huge amounts of energy

star cluster: a group of stars that are relatively close and travel together

structural diagram: a drawing to explain molecules in which atoms are represented by chemical symbols and bonds are shown as straight lines connecting the symbols

subatomic particles: the protons, neutrons, and electrons that make up atoms

Sun: the star around which Earth and eight other planets revolve

Sun-centred solar system: a model reflecting the observation that Earth and other planets travel around the Sun

sunspot: a dark patch on the Sun's photosphere

superconductors: ceramics that conduct electricity with no resistance at low temperatures

supernova: a huge explosion that occurs at the end of a massive star's life

sustainability: the pursuit of economic prosperity, social justice, and protection of the natural environment, while simultaneously securing good health and enhancing well-being for all people and for future generations

synthetic: a material that is invented and produced by people



telophase: a phase of mitosis during which the two halves of the cell reorganize to form daughter cells

terrestrial planet: one of four small planets close to the Sun, with a density roughly the same as the density of rock; from the Latin *terra* for "earth"; also known as an inner planet

testis: an organ that produces sperm cells; the primary reproductive organ of the male mammal

thrust: the force that causes an object to move

triangulation: a method of measuring the distance to an object by measuring the angles between the baseline and the object and then drawing a scale diagram to calculate the distance to the object

trimester: one of three stages in human pregnancy

tumour: a mass of cancer cells formed by abnormal rapid cell division



umbilical cord: the cordlike structure that connects the embryo with the placenta

universe: everything that exits, including all matter and energy everywhere

uterus: the organ in the female reproductive system where the embryo is nourished as it grows



vacuole: an organelle filled with water, sugar, minerals, and proteins vegetative reproduction: the form of asexual reproduction in which a section of a plant grows to form a new plant

viscosity: the physical property of a liquid that limits its ability to flow

visible spectrum: a small part of the electromagnetic spectrum that can be seen as a pattern of colours

volt: the SI unit used to measure electric potential; symbol V

voltage: electric potential

voltage drop: a measure of the energy each electron gives up as it moves through a circuit; commonly used for potential difference

voltaic cell: the primary wet cell, developed by Alessandro Volta, consisting of two plates made of different metals (electrodes) placed in a liquid (electrolyte) that conducts an electric current



watt: the SI unit for electrical power; symbol: W

watt hour: a unit for measuring energy; the number of watts of electrical power used multiplied by the number of hours; symbol: W·h

weight: the force of gravity acting on an object

white dwarf: a small star created by the remaining material when a red giant dies

word equation: a concise way to indicate a chemical reaction between substances



zodiac constellation: a constellation named after an animal; from the Greek word *zodion* for "animal sign"

zygote: a fertilized egg cell; the product of sexual reproduction

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