

Grade 5 Science Vocabulary

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Specifications for Science provides a glossary of vocabulary words identified by Florida educators as essential to assessing the Science Sunshine State Standards. The list of words that follow relate to the fifth grade CIA Science. It is important to note that the terms are not written in grade-appropriate language, nor do they include all science vocabulary words students in the fifth grade should know. Teachers are encouraged to include these vocabulary words in science lessons throughout the year.

atom	the smallest unit of a chemical element that can still retain the properties of that element
carnivore	an animal or plant that consumes or obtains nutrients from animals
community	all the populations of organisms belonging to different species and sharing the same geographical area
conservation	controlled use and/or maintenance of natural resources; various efforts to preserve or protect natural resources
consumer	an organism that feeds on other organisms for food
decomposer	any organism that feeds or obtains nutrients by breaking down organic matter from dead organisms
density	concentration of matter of an object; number of individuals in the same species that live in a given area; the mass per unit volume of a substance in a given area
ecosystem	an ecological community, together with its environment, functioning as a unit
energy	a quantity that describes the capacity to do work; a source of usable power

energy pyramid	a pyramidal diagram that compares the amount of energy available at each position, or level, in the feeding order
energy transfer	a change of energy from one form to another (e.g., mechanical to electrical, solar to electrical)
environment	the sum of conditions affecting an organism, including all living and nonliving things in an area, such as plants, animals, water, soil, weather, landforms, and air
experiment	a procedure that is carried out and repeated under controlled conditions in order to discover, demonstrate, or test a hypothesis; includes all components of the scientific method
food chain	transfer of energy through various stages as a result of feeding patterns of a series of organisms
food web	the interconnected feeding relationships in a food chain found in a particular place and time
force	a quality that tends to produce movement or acceleration of a body in the direction of its application; a push or a pull
friction	a force that opposes the relative motion of two material surfaces in contact with one another
gravitation	a force of attraction between two masses
gravity	the observed effect of the force of gravitation
habitat	a place in an ecosystem where an organism normally lives
heat	a form of energy resulting from the temperature difference between a system and its surroundings

herbivore	an animal that feeds on plants
inertia	the property of a body, due to its mass, that causes it to resist any change in its motion unless overcome by a force
investigation	a procedure that is carried out in order to observe a response caused by a stimulus; not a complete experiment
kinetic energy	the energy possessed by a body because of its motion
life cycle	the entire sequence of events in an organism's growth and development
light	electromagnetic radiation that lies within the visible range
mass	the amount of matter an object contains
microscopic	relating to an object too small to be visible without the use of a microscope
nonrenewable resource	a resource that can only be replenished over millions of years
organ	a structure containing different tissues that are organized to carry out a specific function of the body (e.g., heart, lungs, brain, etc.)
organism	any living plant, animal, or fungus that maintains various vital processes necessary for life
photosynthesis	a chemical process by which plants trap light energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates (sugars)

pollution	any alteration of the natural environment producing a condition harmful to living organisms; may occur naturally or as a result of human activities
population	a group of organisms of the same species living in a specific geographical area
potential energy	the energy an object has because of its position or structure; stored energy
predator	an organism that preys on and consumes animals; usually an animal
prey	an organism caught or hunted for food by another organism
producer	an organism that makes its own food from the environment; usually a green plant
protist	unicellular organisms belonging to the kingdom Protista
reflection	the bouncing off or turning back of light, sound, or heat from a surface
refraction	a change in direction of a wave that occurs as it passes from one medium to another of different density
renewable resource	a resource that is replaced or restored, as it is used, by natural processes in a reasonable amount of time
resource	any material that can be used to satisfy a need
scientific method	a plan of inquiry that uses science process skills as a tool to gather, organize, analyze, and communicate information

system

a set of objects, organisms, or different parts acting to form a whole

tissue

similar cells acting to perform a specific function; four basic types of tissue are muscle, connective, nerve, and epidermal