

# Project glossary

**absorb**

The ability to soak something up, such as a liquid or light.

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**afterimage**

The illusion of an image that the brain still perceives after the stimulus has been removed.

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**beam**

A group of light rays that move in the same direction.

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**concave**

A surface that curves inwards.

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**cone**

A specialised cell on the eye’s retina that detects coloured light.

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**convex**

A surface that curves outwards.

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**cornea**

The clear dome at the front of the eye that helps to focus light.

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**darkness**

The absence of light.

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**electromagnetic spectrum**

The range of light on Earth, including visible light that humans can see.

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**iris**

The coloured part of the eye containing muscles that control the size of the pupil.

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**lens**

The part of the eye behind the pupil that changes shape to finely focus light.

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**light meter**

A device used to measure light intensity in lux.

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**light source**

Something that produces light. It can be natural, such as the Sun, or artificial, such as a light bulb.



**light wave**

The wave-like way in which a ray of light moves in a straight line.

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**lux**

A unit of measurement for light intensity.

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**opaque**

A material that does not allow light to pass through.

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**optical fibre**

A thin, flexible fibre with a glass core and transparent cladding that carries information as light.

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**optic nerve**

The nerve that takes electrical signals from the eye's retina to the brain.

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**perceive**

To become aware of something using the senses, for example, sight.

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**plane mirror**

A mirror with a flat surface.

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**prism**

A transparent block of glass or plastic that separates white light into a visible spectrum of colours.

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**pupil**

The black hole in the centre of the eye's iris that lets light through.

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**ray**

A narrow beam of light.

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**reflect**

To bounce off a surface.

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**reflector**

An object that reflects light.

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**refract**

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

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**retina**

The area at the back of the eye where light rays are focused, containing specialised, light-sensitive cells.



**rod**

A specialised cell on the eye's retina that detects light intensity and discerns between light and dark.

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**scatter**

To move apart in different directions.

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**shadow**

An area of darkness created when an object blocks light.

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**spectrum**

A band of colours produced when white light is separated.

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**translucent**

A material that allows some light to pass through.

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**transparent**

A material that allows most light to pass through.

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**ultraviolet (UV) light**

Harmful rays of light from the Sun that age or burn the skin and cannot be seen by humans.

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**visible light**

The part of the electromagnetic spectrum that the human eye can see, also known as white light.

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**wavelength**

The distance between two identical points on a light wave.

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**white light**

Seemingly colourless light that is made up of a spectrum of coloured light from violet to red.

## Scientific terms glossary

**conclusion**

An explanation of what has been found out using the data collected.

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**data**

Collected information or facts, including numbers, words, measurements or observations.

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**demonstration**

The act of showing someone how to do something, or how something works.



**diagram**

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

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**equipment**

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a data logger or light meter app.

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**fair test**

A test or investigation in which only one variable is changed.

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**graph**

A way of presenting data that shows how two sets of information are related.

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**investigation**

An activity that involves a person studying a subject or problem carefully to learn facts or answer a question. An investigation includes a planning, doing, recording and reviewing stage.

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**method**

A set of instructions or steps to follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

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**observe**

To watch or look at something carefully.

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**question**

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

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**record**

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

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**research**

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

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**results**

The data collected from an investigation or test.

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**table**

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

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**variable**

A factor, such as an object or condition that changes during an investigation.

