

Introduction

As with all word lists, there are bound to be words that you think should have been included. The list is designed as a multi-purpose resource to enable you to develop your own ideas.

Possible Activities

- Making students write a science fiction story using as many of the words from the list as possible.
- Trying to connect words from the list by drawing lines between words, an interesting exercise would be to get students to compare their webs and which words they have connected
- Grouping words by subject (physics, geology, botany etc.) or topic.
- Trying to work out the common roots of words, i.e. their beginnings and endings (mono, hydr – Signs, Symbols and Systematics has a useful section on this)
- Producing short lists from the word list that could be displayed around the classroom, for example a list of the words related to investigations might help remind students what to include in their write-ups
- Constructing tables to show words that have everyday meanings as well as scientific ones
- Use the lists as an assessment exercise where students put a mark by each word, i.e. (A) I can spell the word, (B) I can define the word, (C) I can use the word correctly in a sentence.

Use a puzzle-building program to create word squares or crosswords. With the latter you could give students the solution and get them to write the clues for the words, this could be a good homework exercise, with a check at the start of the next lesson as they swap crosswords (you would need to generate different ones) and try to solve each other's. You can find demo versions of these sorts of programmes at various websites, for example, <http://www.puzzleconnection.com/>.

Further Reading

- I found Clive Sutton's *Words, Science and Learning* (Open University Press, 1992) fascinating and although aspects of it are quite theoretical it has a host of good ideas about helping students make sense of the language of science.
- There are obvious links to the National Literacy Strategy <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/literacy/>, the QCA document *Language for Learning in Key Stage 3* has some suggestions about how to help students learn to use language more effectively in science.
- *Language through Science* (published by ASE) also provides ideas on developing pupil literacy through science, as does *Language And Literacy In Science Education* (Jonathan Osborne and Jerry Wellington, Oxford University Press, 2001).

Where the activity fits in

KS3 Science

Acknowledgement

This word list is based on one that was originally put together by Jerry Wellington.

a

abdomen
absorption
acceleration
accuracy
acid
activity
adaptation
adolescence
aerobic
air resistance
alcohol
alkali
alkane
alkene
allele
alpha
alternating
ammeter
ammonia
amphibian
amplitude
anaerobic
analogue
animal
annual
anomalous
antagonistic
antibiotic
artery
asexual
association
asteroid
atmosphere
atom
atomic number
attract
audible

b

bacteria

base
battery
beta
biased
biceps
biomass
biotechnology
boiling
bond
bronchus
bulb

c

calcium
capillary
carbohydrate
carbon
carbon dioxide
carbonate
carnivore
catalyst
caustic
cell
charge
chemical
chlorine
chlorophyll
chloroplasts
chromatogram
chromosome
ciliated
cilia
circuit
classify
climate
clone
coil
comets
component
composition
compound
conclusion
conductor

conservation
consumer
contraction
control
convection
copper
correlation
corrosion
covalent
cracking
crude oil
crystal
current
cytoplasm

d

data
decompose
density
deposition
diabetes
diffusion
digestion
dilute
diode
dispersion
displacement
dissipated
dissolve
distillation
diversity
dormant
drag
dynamo

e

eclipse
ecosystem
egested
electrical
electrolysis
electromagnet

electron
electrostatic
element
endothermic
energy
environment
enzyme
epidemic
epithelial
equation
error
erupt
evaluate
evaporation
evidence
evolution
excretion
exhale
exothermic
expansion
extinction

f

fats
ferns
fertilisation
fertility
fetus
field
filter
food chain
food web
force
formula
fossil
freefall
frequency
friction
fuel
fungi
fuse

g

galaxy
gamete

gamma ray
gas
generator
genes
gestation
glucose
granite
gravity

h

habitat
haemoglobin
halogen
hazard
herbivore
hereditary
hibernation
homeostasis
hormone
hydraulic
hydrocarbon
hydrogen
hypothesis

i

igneous
immunisation
indicator
infection
infra
inhale
inherit
inoculation
insulation
insulin
intensity
interpret
intestine
invertebrate
ion
isotope

j

joule

k

kidney
kilogram
kinetic

l

lava
lever
life
limestone
line graph
liquid
lithosphere
live
longitudinal
loudness
luminous
lung

m

magma
magnesium
magnetic
magnification
mammal
mammary glands
mass
mass number
measurement
meiosis
melting
membrane
menstruation
metamorphic
meteors
meter
methane
metre (length)
microbe
microwave
migration
mineral
mitosis
mixture

model
molecule
moment
monohybrid
monoxide
mosses
motor
mucous
mutation

n

negative
neutral
neutron
nitrogen
noble gases
nucleus
nutrient

o

observation
opaque
orbit
organ
organism
osmosis
ovary
oviduct
ovulation
oxidation
oxide
ozone

p

palisade
parallel
particle
pathogen
periodic table
pesticide
ph range
photosynthesis
pitch
pivot
placenta
planet
pneumatic
poles
polymer
porosity
positive
potassium
potential
power
precipitate
precision
predator
prediction
pressure
prey
producer
proportional
protein
proton
puberty
pumice

q

quadrat
qualitative
quantitative

r

radiation
radioactive
range
react
reactant
reactivity
reduction
reflection
refraction
relay
reliability
reliable
renewable
reproduction
reptile
repulsion
resistance
resistor
resonance
respiration
reversible
ribcage
risk
rotate
rotation

s

salt
sample size
sandstone
satellite
saturated
sedimentary
segment
seismic
series
shale
shell
skeleton
sodium
sodium hydroxide
solar system
solenoid
solid
solubility
soluble
solution
solvent
species
resistance
speed
sperm
stimulus
sustainable
symbol

t

taxonomic

tectonics
temperature
testis
theory
thermal
thermistor
thorax
tissue
toxic
toxin
trachea
transfer
transformer
transparent
transpiration
transverse
trial
triceps

u

ultrasound
ultraviolet
universe
unsaturated
upthrust
uterus

v

vaccination
vacuole
variable
variation

vein
velocity
ventilation
ventilation
vibration
villus
virus
vitamin
voltage

w

wave
wavelength
weight

x

x-rays
xylem

y

yeast

z

zinc