

6TH GRADE SCIENCE GLOSSARY

Keep the glossary in your science folder. It should be in class every day. Highlight the words as we learn them. We will also highlight key words in the definitions. Keep your 3 x 5 cards.

FCAT science words: **5** – mastered by 5th; **8** – mastered by 8th; and **11** – mastered by 11th grade.

- abiotic factor** - a nonliving physical or chemical part of an ecosystem; describes the nonliving part of the environment, including water, rocks, light, and temperature. **8**
- abrasion** - the grinding and wearing away of rock surfaces through the mechanical action of other rock or sand particles.
- absolute magnitude** - amount of light a star actually gives off.
- absorption (absorb)** - the process of taking in; soaking up; or making a part of something.
- abyssal plain** - a large, flat, almost level area of the deep-ocean basin.
- acceleration** - rate at which speed or direction changes; can be found by dividing the change in speed by the given time, usually expressed in meters per second. **8**
- accuracy** - the extent to which a measurement is in proximity to the standard or expected value. **11**
- acid** - a substance that increases the H⁺ concentration when added to a water solution. **11**
- acid precipitation** - rain, sleet, or snow that contains a high concentration of acids.
- acid rain** - rain that has become more acidic than normal due to pollution.
- activation energy** - the least amount of energy required to start a particular chemical reaction. **11**
- active transport** - the movement of molecules from where they are less crowded to where they are more crowded; the process of using energy to move materials through a membrane.
- adaptation** - any structure or behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment; a characteristic of an organism that increases its chance of survival in its environment; **5** a particular development, behavior, or physiological change in a population of organisms, in response to changes in the populations. **11**
- adenosine triphosphate (ATP)** - a molecule that acts as the main energy source for cell processes.
- adoptive family** - the legal addition of children to the family of non-biological parents.
- air mass** - large body of air that has nearly the same temperature and humidity as the Earth's surface over which it formed.
- air pollution** - harmful material added to the air by the introduction of pollutants from human and natural sources that can cause damage to living things and the environment.
- air pressure** - the measure of the force of air molecules pushing on an area.
- air resistance** - force of air on moving objects. **8**
- alga (plural-algae)** - protists that live mostly in water and use sunlight as a source of energy.
- allele** - any of two or more alternate forms of a gene that an organism may have for a particular trait. **8**
- alloy** - solid metal dissolved in another solid metal.
- altitude** - the distance above sea level.
- alveolus (plural-alveoli)** - grape-like cluster of tiny "balloons" in the lungs.
- ameba (amoeba)** - microscopic, unicellular Protist that moves using pseudopod.
- amino acid** - building block of protein; an organic molecule containing an amino (-NH₂) and a carboxyl(-COOH) group from which proteins are synthesized. **11**
- amorphous solid** - solid that does not keep a definite shape.
- amphibian** - a cold-blooded vertebrate animal that lives in water when it is young and as an adult, it moves onto land.
- amplitude** - measure of the energy a wave carries; the maximum distance that the particles of a wave's medium vibrate from their rest position; in any periodic function, the maximum absolute variation of the function. **8**
- anabolic (anabolism)** - building up process.
- anal pore** - tiny opening through which a paramecium and other unicellular organisms eliminates waste.
- analyze (analysis/plural-analyses)** - to separate into parts in order to determine what something is or how it works; to examine in detail.
- anatomy** - the study of the structure of the body.
- anemometer** - an instrument used to measure wind speed.
- angiosperm** - a plant that has flowers and produces seeds enclosed in fruit.
- Animalia (Animal)** - a kingdom made up of complex, multicellular organisms that lack cell walls, can usually move around, and quickly respond to their environment.
- anion** - an atom that has gained electrons; a negative ion.
- anther** - the part of the stamen that produces pollen.
- antibiotic** - substance produced by helpful bacteria that destroys or weakens disease-causing bacteria.