Project glossary

alloy

A mixture of two metals or a metal that has been mixed with another substance.

atmosphere The layer of gases that surrounds Earth. attract/attraction When one object moves towards another object. aurora Bands of coloured light that appear in polar regions. cobalt A hard, silvery-white metal that is magnetic. compass An instrument used for showing directions. contact force A force that acts between two objects that touch. ferrofluid A magnetic liquid. ferrous Containing iron. force A push or a pull. force meter

An instrument used to measure forces in newtons.

friction

The force between two surfaces as they move across each other.





iron

A strong, greyish metal that is magnetic.

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iron filings

Very small pieces of iron.

lubricant

A substance that reduces friction between moving parts that rub against each other.

magnet

An object that produces a magnetic field.

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magnetic field

The area around a magnet where its magnetic force acts.

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magnetic force

Also known as magnetism. The attraction and repulsion between two magnets or between a magnet and magnetic materials.

magnetise

To make an object magnetic.

magnetite

A naturally occurring magnetic rock.

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magnetosphere

The Earth's invisible magnetic field.

newton

The unit in which forces are measured.

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nickel

A silver-coloured metal that is magnetic.

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non-contact force

A force that acts between two objects that do not touch.



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north pole

The end of a magnet where magnetic force is strong. The north pole of a magnet is the pole out of which magnetic field lines emerge.

outer core

A molten metal layer of the Earth that lies between the inner core and the mantle.

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pull

A force that moves an object towards something.

push

A force that moves an object away from something.

repel/repulsion

When one object pushes another object away.

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solar wind

A stream of electrically charged particles travelling from the Sun to the Earth.

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south pole

The end of a magnet where magnetic force is strong. The south pole of a magnet is the pole into which magnetic field lines enter.

steel

A very strong, alloy made mainly from iron. It is magnetic.

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surface

The top or outer layer of an object.

tread pattern

A pattern of lines cut into a surface to stop it from slipping.





Scientific terms glossary

bar chart

A way of displaying data, which uses vertical blocks or rectangles to show different amounts.

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compare

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or diffe	erent.
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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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describe

To say aloud or write how something is done or what something is like.

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diagram

A drawing with labels that shows the parts of something.

equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a force meter.

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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.

measurement

The exact amount of something, such as the length, height, mass or volume in standard units.

method

A set of instructions or steps to do a particular task.





observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

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prediction

A statement made by a person where they say what they think will happen in the future, using their knowledge or experiences.

record

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

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.



