

# Project glossary

## **air**

A mixture of gases, including oxygen, that surrounds the Earth.

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## **brass instrument**

A musical instrument made of brass or another metal that produces sounds when a player's lips vibrate in the mouthpiece, such as a tuba, trombone or cornet.

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## **cochlea**

The spiral-shaped part inside the inner ear that turns vibrations into electrical signals.

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## **cochlear nerve**

A nerve in the inner ear that carries electrical signals to the brain.

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## **decibel (dB)**

A unit used to measure the volume of sound.

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## **ear**

A body part on the outside and inside of the head used for hearing.

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## **ear canal**

A tube that runs from the outer ear to the eardrum.

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## **eardrum**

A thin layer of tissue inside the ear through which vibrations pass.

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## **gas**

A material with no fixed shape and particles that are far apart.

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## **hearing**

The ability to sense a sound using the ears.

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## **hertz (Hz)**

A unit used to measure the pitch of a sound.



**inner ear**

The part of the ear inside the head that contains the cochlea.

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**medium**

A material, such as a solid, liquid or gas, that transfers energy from one place to another. For example, sound energy.

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**muffle**

To reduce the volume of sound, usually by wrapping it in a material.

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**musical instrument**

A device used to make music.

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**liquid**

A material with no fixed shape and close-together particles that slide past each other, meaning it can be poured.

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**ossicles**

Three tiny, linked bones inside the ear through which vibrations pass.

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**particle**

A single piece of matter that is too small to be seen.

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**percussion**

Musical instruments that produce sound when they are struck, scraped or shaken.

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**pinna**

The part of the ear on the outside of the head that collects sound.

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**pitch**

The highness or lowness of a sound.

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**solid**

A material with a fixed shape and particles that are tightly packed together.

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**sound**

Vibrations that travel in waves from a sound source through a medium to the ears.



**sound source**

Something which vibrates to produce sound waves, such as a musical instrument, a piece of machinery or a person’s vocal cords.

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**sound wave**

A pattern of vibrations created by a sound source that travels through a medium to the ears.

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**stringed instrument**

A musical instrument that produces sounds when its strings are plucked or bowed.

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**vibrate**

To quickly move back and forth repeatedly.

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**volume**

The loudness of a sound.

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**wavelength**

The distance between two peaks of a sound wave.

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**woodwind instrument**

A musical instrument made of wood, plastic or metal that produces a range of sounds when a player blows into or across a mouthpiece and covers and uncovers holes in its pipe.

# Scientific terms glossary

**compare**

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or different.

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**conclusion**

The outcome of an investigation or an explanation of what has been found out using data collected.



**control**

A part of a comparative investigation. It is an element that remains unchanged and is compared against the results to see the effect of a variable.

**data**

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

**diagram**

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

**equipment**

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as beakers and cylinders.

**fair test**

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

**investigation**

An activity that involves investigating 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 follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

**observe**

To watch or look at something carefully.

**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 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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**variable**

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

