

Project glossary

boiling point

The temperature at which a liquid changes to a gas. A material's boiling point is the same temperature as its condensing point.

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compress

To squash.

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condense/condensation

When a gas is cooled and changes into a liquid.

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condensing point

The temperature at which a gas condenses into a liquid. A material's condensing point is the same temperature as its boiling point.

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cool

To remove a heat source so the temperature decreases.

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evaporate/evaporation

When a liquid is heated and changes into a gas.

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foam

A material that is bubbles of gas trapped within a liquid.

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freeze/freezing

When a liquid is cooled and changes into a solid.

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freezing point

The temperature at which a liquid freezes into a solid. A material's freezing point is the same temperature as its melting point.

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gas

A state of matter where the material has no fixed shape or volume. It fills the available space and can be compressed.

gel

A thick, or viscous, liquid.

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heat

A form of energy that increases the movement of particles in matter.

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ice

The solid form of water.

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liquid

A state of matter where the material can be poured. It takes the shape of a container and cannot be compressed.

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material

Something that is made of matter.

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matter

What all things are made from.

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melt/melting

When a solid is heated and changes into a liquid.

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melting point

The temperature at which a solid melts into a liquid. A material’s melting point is the same temperature as its freezing point.

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particle

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

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powder

Lots of small solid particles.

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process

A series of actions taken to achieve a result.

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property

A quality that a material has.

reversible

Capable of being reversed so that the previous state is restored.

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solid

A state where the material keeps its shape unless a force is applied. It has a definite volume and cannot be compressed.

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state of matter

Forms of matter, such as a solid, liquid or gas.

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steam

Another term for gaseous water (water vapour).

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temperature

How hot or cold something is.

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viscous

Describes the thickness of a liquid.

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volume

The amount of space that an object takes up or contains.

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water vapour

The gaseous form of water.

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.

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data

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

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.

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equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a hand lens, ruler or thermometer.

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estimate

Roughly calculate an answer or outcome, usually with a numerical value.

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interval

The distance between two points or times.

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investigation

An activity that involves 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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line graph

A type of graph that uses a line to show changes over time.

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measurement

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

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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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prediction

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

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 data or information gathered by other people to discover 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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thermometer

An instrument that measures temperature.

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unit

A system of measurement, such as millimetres (mm) or degrees Celsius (°C).

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variable

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