

Grade 6 Science Vocabulary

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Specifications for Science provides a glossary of vocabulary words identified by Florida educators as essential to assessing the Science Sunshine State Standards. The list of words that follow relate to the sixth grade CIA Science. It is important to note that the terms are not written in grade-appropriate language, nor do they include all science vocabulary words students in the sixth grade should know. The terms that appear in italics are science words that are introduced in elementary grades but are listed because they also relate to the sixth grade CIA Science. Teachers are encouraged to include all of these vocabulary words in science lessons throughout the year.

<i>adaptation</i>	<i>a characteristic of an organism that increases its chance of survival in its environment</i>
allele	any of two or more alternate forms of a gene that an organism may have for a particular trait
asexual reproduction	a form of reproduction in which new individuals are formed without the involvement of gametes
<i>atom</i>	<i>the smallest unit of a chemical element that can still retain the properties of that element</i>
biodiversity	the existence of a wide range of different species in a given area or a specific period of time
<i>carnivore</i>	<i>an animal or plant that consumes or obtains nutrients from animals</i>
<i>change of state</i>	<i>a physical change that occurs when matter changes to another state (i.e., liquid, gas, or solid)</i>
<i>chemical change</i>	<i>a reaction or a change in a substance produced by chemical means that results in producing a different chemical</i>

<i>community</i>	<i>all the populations of organisms belonging to different species and sharing the same geographical area</i>
<i>compound</i>	<i>a substance made up of a combination of two or more elements held together by chemical bonds that cannot be separated by physical means</i>
<i>condensation</i>	<i>the process of changing from a gas (i.e., water vapor) to a liquid (i.e., dew); the act of making more dense or compact</i>
<i>consumer</i>	<i>an organism that feeds on other organisms for food</i>
<i>density</i>	<i>concentration of matter of an object; number of individuals in the same species that live in a given area; the mass per unit volume of a substance in a given area</i>
<i>dependent variable</i>	<i>factor being measured or observed in an experiment</i>
<i>dominance</i>	<i>tendency of certain (dominant) alleles to mask the expression of their corresponding (recessive) alleles</i>
<i>electron</i>	<i>a stable elementary particle that is negatively charged and orbits the nucleus of an atom</i>
<i>element</i>	<i>a substance that cannot be reduced to a simpler substance by chemical means</i>
<i>evaporation</i>	<i>the process in which a liquid is converted to its vapor phase by heating the liquid</i>
<i>experiment</i>	<i>a procedure that is carried out and repeated under controlled conditions in order to discover, demonstrate, or test a hypothesis; includes all components of the scientific method</i>

<i>gas</i>	<i>one of the fundamental states of matter in which molecules do not have fixed volume or shape</i>
gene	a specific part of a chromosome or sequence of DNA that determines a particular feature or characteristic in an organism
<i>heat</i>	<i>a form of energy resulting from the temperature difference between a system and its surroundings</i>
<i>herbivore</i>	<i>an animal that feeds on plants</i>
heterozygous	cell or organism that has two different alleles for a particular trait
homozygous	cell or organism that has identical rather than different alleles for a particular trait
independent variable	the factor that is changed in an experiment in order to study changes in the dependent variable
<i>investigation</i>	<i>a procedure that is carried out in order to observe a response caused by a stimulus; not a complete experiment</i>
<i>life cycle</i>	<i>the entire sequence of events in an organism's growth and development</i>
<i>liquid</i>	<i>one of the fundamental states of matter with a definite volume but no definite shape</i>
<i>mass</i>	<i>the amount of matter an object contains</i>
<i>Matter</i>	<i>a solid, liquid, or gas that possesses inertia and is capable of occupying space</i>

meiosis	the process of nuclear division in cells during which the number of chromosomes is reduced by half
<i>microscopic</i>	<i>relating to an object too small to be visible without the use of a microscope</i>
mitosis	a process of nuclear division in eukaryotic cells during which the nucleus of a cell divides into two nuclei, each with the same number of chromosomes
<i>mixture</i>	<i>the product of a thorough blending of two or more substances, not chemically combined</i>
neutral	a particle, object, or system that lacks a net charge
neutron	a subatomic particle having zero charge, found in the nucleus of an atom
nucleus	the center region of an atom where protons and neutrons are located; also a cell structure that contains the cell's genetic material
<i>organ</i>	<i>a structure containing different tissues that are organized to carry out a specific function of the body (e.g., heart, lungs, brain, etc.)</i>
<i>organism</i>	<i>any living plant, animal, or fungus that maintains various vital processes necessary for life</i>
<i>photosynthesis</i>	<i>a chemical process by which plants trap light energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates (sugars)</i>
<i>physical change</i>	<i>a reaction; a change in matter from one form to another, without forming new substances</i>

<i>predator</i>	<i>an organism that preys on and consumes animals; usually an animal</i>
<i>prey</i>	<i>an organism caught or hunted for food by another organism</i>
<i>producer</i>	<i>an organism that makes its own food from the environment; usually a green plant</i>
<i>protist</i>	<i>unicellular organisms belonging to the kingdom Protista</i>
proton	a subatomic particle having a positive charge and which is found in the nucleus of an atom
Punnett square	a graphic checkboard used to determine results from a particular genetic cross
recessive	an allele for a trait that will be masked unless the organism is homozygous for this trait
<i>scientific method</i>	<i>a plan of inquiry that uses science process skills as a tool to gather, organize, analyze, and communicate information</i>
sexual reproduction	reproduction involving the union of gametes producing an offspring with traits from both parents
<i>solid</i>	<i>having a definite shape and a definite volume; one of the fundamental states of matter</i>
<i>solution</i>	<i>a mixture of two or more substances uniformly dispersed throughout a single phase</i>
<i>system</i>	<i>a set of objects, organisms, or different parts acting to form a whole</i>

<i>tissue</i>	<i>similar cells acting to perform a specific function; four basic types of tissue are muscle, connective, nerve, and epidermal</i>
tropism	the motion of an organism or part of an organism toward or away from an external stimulus
variable	the event, condition, or factor that can be changed or controlled in order to study or test a hypothesis in a scientific experiment
virus	a noncellular, disease-causing particle that uses the genetic material from its host to reproduce
<i>volume</i>	<i>a measure of the amount of space an object takes up; also the loudness of a sound or signal</i>