

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.

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lubricant

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

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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.

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magnetise

To make an object magnetic.

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magnetite

A naturally occurring magnetic rock.

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magnetosphere

The Earth's invisible magnetic field.

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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.



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.

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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.

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push

A force that moves an object away from something.

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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.

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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.

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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 different.

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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.

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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.

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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 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.

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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 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.

