

Glossary

A

abbreviations

agencies

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ofcom Office of Communications

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education

animals

aardvark nocturnal African burrowing mammal

armadillo nocturnal insectivore with large claws

chicken a domestic fowl

duck a waterbird with webbed feet

goose a large waterbird with a long neck, short legs, webbed feet and a short broad bill

hedgehog small nocturnal mammal with a spiny coat and short legs

parrot mainly tropical bird with bright plumage

sea lion a large type of seal

seal sea-dwelling fish-eating mammal with flippers 1

swan a large waterbird with a long flexible neck, short legs, webbed feet and a broad bill

zander large freshwater perch

zebra wild African horse with black-and-white stripes

M

markup languages

HTML (hypertext markup language) the standard markup language for creating web pages 1

MathML (mathematical markup language) markup language for describing mathematical notation

SVG (scalable vector graphics) XML-based vector image format

XHTML (extensible hypertext markup language) XML version of HTML

XML (extensible markup language) a markup language that defines a set of rules for encoding documents 1

minerals

amethyst purple variety of quartz

aquamarine light blue variety of beryl

aragonite a crystal form of calcium carbonate

bakerite a borosilicate mineral

beryl composed of beryllium aluminium cyclosilicate 1

bilinite an iron sulfate mineral

biotite a common phyllosilicate mineral

calcite a crystal form of calcium carbonate

chalcedony cryptocrystalline variety of quartz
citrine yellow variety of quartz
cobaltite a sulfide mineral composed of cobalt, arsenic and sulfur
corundum crystalline form of aluminium oxide
cyanotrichite a hydrous copper aluminium sulfate mineral
diamond a metastable allotrope of carbon
dolomite an anhydrous carbonate mineral
lettsonite *see* cyanotrichite
quartz hard mineral consisting of silica 1, 2
quetzalcoatlite a rare tellurium oxysalt mineral
vaterite a crystal form of calcium carbonate
vulcanite a rare copper telluride mineral

S

symbols

Greek symbols

α alpha
 β beta
 χ chi
 δ delta
 ϵ epsilon
 η eta
 γ gamma
 ι iota
 κ kappa
 λ lambda
 μ mu
 ν nu
 ω omega
 o omicron
 ϕ phi
 π pi
 ψ psi
 ρ rho
 σ sigma
 τ tau
 θ theta
 v upsilon
 ε epsilon (variant)
 \varkappa kappa (variant)
 φ phi (variant)
 ϖ pi (variant)
 ϱ rho (variant)
 ς sigma (variant)
 ϑ theta (variant)

ξ xi
 ζ zeta

Latin symbols

f function
 L Lagrangian function
 t time variable or parameter
 x first unknown variable or horizontal co-ordinate
 y second unknown variable or vertical co-ordinate
 z third unknown variable or co-ordinate

pictographs

♣ club
◇ diamond
♥ heart
♠ spade

V

vegetables

artichoke a variety of thistle cultivated as food
Brussels sprout small leafy green vegetable buds
cabbage vegetable with thick green or purple leaves
cauliflower type of cabbage with edible white flower head
courgette immature fruit of a vegetable marrow
marrow long white-fleshed gourd with green skin 3
spinach green, leafy vegetable
zucchini *see* courgette