

Glossary

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

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

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

Markup languages

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

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

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

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

lettsomite

quartz hard mineral consisting of silica

quetzalcoatlite a rare tellurium oxysalt mineral

vaterite a crystal form of calcium carbonate

vulcanite a rare copper telluride mineral

Pictographs

♣ club

◇ diamond

♡ heart

♠ spade

Symbols

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

spinach green, leafy vegetable

zucchini