

Glossary

Abbreviations

Agencies

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ofcom Office of Communications

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education

Animals

Living organism that has specialised sense organs and nervous system

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

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

Solid, inorganic, naturally-occurring substance

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

blinite 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
letsomite
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

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

Vegetables

Plant or part of a plant used as food

- 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**