

# Science

## Vocabulary progression

### Standard

**This version was updated on 10/04/2026 15:41**

Copyright: While we encourage you to share this document within your school community, please ensure that it is only uploaded to your school website if it is password protected.

# Overview - Vocabulary progression

## Working scientifically

	Key stage 1	Lower key stage 2	Upper key stage 2
<b>Question, Plan and predict</b>	plan (1) predict	fair (1) investigate investigation method variable control variable rate	hazard model safety (1) testable fair test
<b>Observe, test and measure Record</b>	diagram group (1) measure observe sort (1) table (1) research test (1)	—	—

<b>Conclude, Evaluate</b>	compare difference (1) pattern (1) similarity results (1)	conclusion trustworthy proof/prove	evidence evaluate reliable
<b>Observe, test and measure, Record</b>	—	bar chart record results table stop watch classify classification key degrees Celsius (3) temperature thermometer	anomaly (3) data estimate line of best fit (3) line graph relationship mean average scale secondary data/source units

*\*Words on this page are classified as Tier 2 words unless stated otherwise.*

## Science in action

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
science scientist	invention	n/a	ethics	discovery (1)	theory

*\*Words on this page are classified as Tier 2 words unless stated otherwise.*

## Scientific knowledge and understanding

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<b>Sensitive bodies</b>	hearing (1) senses (1) sight (1) smell (1) taste (1) touch (1) touch	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Comparing animals</b>	amphibian bird (1) carnivore diet fish (1) herbivore mammal omnivore reptile	—	—	—	—	—

<b>Plants</b>	bulb deciduous evergreen flower (1) fruit (1) garden plants growth (1) leaf (1) roots (1) seed (1) stem (1) trunk (1) wild plants	germinate energy (2) nutrient (2) life cycle (2) shoot	female (1) flowering plant male (1) pollen pollination reproduction seed dispersal transport	N/A	N/A	N/A
---------------	---	--	---	-----	-----	-----

<b>Forces, Earth and Space</b>	deciduous tree evergreen tree season (1) weather (1)	N/A	attract (2) contact force force (2) friction (2) magnet (2) magnetic material magnetism (2) non-contact force north pole repel (2) south pole	N/A	celestial bodies day (daytime) gravity (2) moon (1) night (nighttime) orbit (2) phase (2) planet (1) spherical star (1) year Solar System Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Pluto air resistance balanced (2) gear gravity lever pivot	N/A
--------------------------------	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----

					pulley surface area unbalanced (2) water resistance	
Energy	N/A	N/A	cast (a shadow) light source luminous mirror non-luminous opaque reflect reflection reflective (shiny) shadow (1) the Sun translucent transparent	air (1) eardrum insulator pitch (2) sound vibration volume (2) appliance battery/cell bulb buzzer circuit (2) electrical conductor electrical insulator electricity (1) mains motor power source property switch (2) wire (1)	N/A	light ray pupil ray diagram reflective cell circuit diagram current resistance voltage

<b>Materials</b>	absorbent fabric glass (1) metal (1) material object plastic (1) rock (1) tough waterproof (1) wood (1)	elastic flexible (2) property suitable (1)	crystal fossil grain hard hardness rock sediment sedimentary rock sedimentation soft soil	boiling condensing evaporating evaporation rate freezing gas liquid melting precipitation solid steam the water cycle	dissolve filtering (2) insoluble mixture sieving soluble solution burning conductor electrical conductivity insulator irreversible change reversible change rust rusting thermal conductivity transparency	N/A
------------------	---	---	---	--	--	-----

<b>Habitats and Microhabitats</b>	—	alive (1) dead (1) depend (2) energy (2) food chain (2) habitat (2) life processes microhabitat minibeast predator (2) prey (2) shelter (1)	—	—	—	—
<b>Life cycles and health</b>	—	basic needs egg (1) health (1) hygiene (1) life cycle (2) live young pupa spawn survive teenager (1) toddler (1) tadpole	—	—	—	—

<b>Movement and nutrition</b>	—	—	balanced (diet) (2) bone (1) carbohydrate fat fibre invertebrate joint mineral movement muscle (1) nutrient protection protein skeleton support vertebrate vitamin	—	—	—
-------------------------------	---	---	--	---	---	---

<p><b>Classification and changing habitats</b></p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>conservation (2) deforestation (2) endangered (2) flowering plants insect nature reserve non-flowering plants pollution (2) slug snail spider worm</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>
<p><b>Digestion and food</b></p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>canine digest (2) digestive system faeces incisor large intestine molar mouth (1) oesophagus premolar producer saliva small intestine stomach (1)</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>

<b>Digestation and food</b>	—	—	—	canine digest (2) digestive system faeces incisor large intestine molar mouth (1) oesophagus premolar producer saliva small intestine stomach (1)	—	—
-----------------------------	---	---	---	--	---	---

<p><b>Life cycles and reproduction</b></p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>adolescence (2)  asexual reproduction  characteristics (2)  fertilisation  germination  gestation  gills  incubation  lungs  mating  metamorphosis  offspring  ovule  pollen  pollination  reproduction (2)  sexual reproduction</p>	<p>—</p>
<p><b>Human timeline</b></p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>foetus  gestation period  hormones  period (menstruation)  puberty  period (menstruation)</p>	<p>—</p>

<b>Classifying big and small</b>	—	—	—	—	—	cold-blooded conifer exoskeleton fern life processes microorganism moss organism warm-blooded
<b>Circulation and health</b>	—	—	—	—	—	blood (1) bloodstream blood vessels carbon dioxide circulatory system drug heart (1) heart rate oxygen pulse

<p><b>Evolution and inheritance</b></p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>adaptation (2)          competition (2)          environment (2)          environmental (2)          evolution (2)          extinct (2)          fossil          gene          inherit          inheritance (2)          natural selection          parent (biological) (1)          population (2)          selective breeding          survival of the fittest (2)          variation (2)          natural selection</p>
---	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---

*\*Words on this page are classified as Tier 2 words unless stated otherwise.*