

SIP Vocabulary List

High School

- aberration:** unavoidable distortion in an image produced by a lens
- atmosphere:** the gaseous mass or envelope surrounding a celestial body and retained by the body's gravitational field
- buoyant:** force of attraction between unlike particles
- catalyst:** a substance that affects the rate of reactions without being consumed in the process
- centripetal:** directed or moving toward a center or axis
- circuit:** continuous path for the flow of electrons
- cohesion:** force of attraction between like particles
- crest:** one of the places in a wave where the wave is highest or the disturbance greatest
- culture:** to grow microorganisms by providing the living conditions that will allow them to flourish
- diffusion:** uniform intermingling of particles of one substance because of the motion of both types of particles. As a result of diffusion, particles move from regions of greater concentration to regions of lesser concentration.
- element:** substance that consists of only one kind of atom and that cannot be separated into other substances by ordinary chemical changes
- energy:** the work that a physical system is capable of doing in changing from its actual state to a specified reference state, the total including, in general, contributions of potential energy, kinetic energy, and rest energy
- equilibrium:** in general, a state of balance; in particular, the state of a body on which no net forces acts
- free fall:** motion under the influence of gravitational force only
- fulcrum:** pivot point of a lever

hypothesis: an explanation that accounts for a set of facts and that can be tested by further investigation

inertia: the tendency for a body to resist acceleration; the tendency of a body at rest to remain at rest or of a body in motion to stay in motion in a straight line unless disturbed by an external force

infrared: electromagnetic waves of frequencies lower than the red of visible light

lever: a simple machine consisting of a bar that pivots about a fixed point; used to transmit or increase force of motion

migration: the movement of one or more atoms from one position in a molecule to another.

molecule: a stable configuration of atomic nuclei and electrons bound together by electrostatic and electromagnetic forces; it is the simplest structural unit that displays the characteristic physical and chemical properties of a compound

momentum: the product of a body's mass and linear velocity

resonance: a phenomenon in which a source that is vibrating at the natural frequency of a nearby object or medium causes the object or medium to vibrate with relatively large amplitude at this natural frequency

reverberation: persistence of a sound, as in an echo, due to multiple reflections

sonic boom: a loud noise produced by the shock wave of an object traveling faster than the speed of sound

streamline: smooth path of a small region of fluid in steady flow

theory: synthesis of a large body of information that encompasses well-tested and verified hypotheses about certain aspects of the natural world

variable: tending to deviate from an established type; aberrant

vector: arrow whose length represents the magnitude of quantity and whose direction represents the direction of the quantity

velocity: a vector quantity the magnitude of which is a body's speed and the direction of which is the body's direction of motion