

SIP Vocabulary List

Middle School

axis: a straight line about which a body rotates

absorption: the action of light being taken in by a substance rather than being reflected or transmitted

adhesion: force of attraction between unlike particles

barometer: an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure

battery: a device for generating an electric current by chemical reaction

centripetal: directed or moving toward a center or axis

circuit: a continuous path for the flow of electrons

climate: the weather (temperature, precipitation, wind) that characteristically prevails in a particular region

consumer: an organism that depends on other organisms for food

density: A property of a substance equal to the mass divided by the volume; the "lightness" or "heaviness" of a substance

ellipse: an oval-shaped curve that is the path taken by a point that moves such that the sum of its distances from two fixed points is constant

focus: for an ellipse, one of the two points for which the sum of the distances to any point on the ellipse is a constant

friction: resistance to motion of objects that are in contact with each other

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

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

mass: the physical volume or bulk of solid body; the measure of a body's resistance to acceleration

momentum: product of the mass and the velocity of an object; has direction as well as size

photosynthesis: the process by which green plants use energy from sunlight to make their own food

reflection: The bouncing back of a particle or wave that strikes the boundary between two media

regeneration: the ability of some organisms to grow body parts

resistor: an electric current element used to oppose an electrical current

soluble: capable of being dissolved

solvent: a substance that dissolves a solute to make a solution

zenith: the point in the sky directly overhead an observer (Astronomy)