



Vocabulary Lists

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The Multi-State Alternate Assessment is a grade level content area assessment designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. This document contains a partial list of vocabulary words used in grade level standards that may be included on the test. The ELA and Mathematics vocabulary lists are compiled across all grade levels to avoid redundancy. Please refer to your state's grade level standards for the specific vocabulary aligned to each student's grade level. The Science vocabulary lists are separated by grade level to include words aligned to the standards for each grade band. Please contact your MSAA State Representative for more information.

English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Vocabulary Lists

ELA Vocabulary

ELA Vocabulary for sign language translation, object replacement, tactile graphics, word boards or word banks, and AT/AAC devices.

accuracy	evidence	persuasive
accurate	exclamation point	phrase
adage	expression	point of view
adjectives	fiction	possessive
adverbs	figurative	precise
alliteration	firsthand	predict
analyze	fluency	prediction
antonym	fluent	problem and solution
arguments	form	punctuation
author's claims	format	purpose
author's purpose	formatting	question mark
capitalize	glossary	quotation
captions	grammar	quotation mark
cause and effect	heading	recognition
central idea	hyphenation	recognize
character	identify	recount
character traits	idiom	revise/revision
citations	inference	secondhand
cite	interpret	semicolon
claim	introduction	setting
clause	key details	sequence
comma	literal	simile
compare	main idea	simple sentence
compound sentence	message	structure
concepts	metaphor	summary
conclusion	most important idea	syntax
conjunction	nonfiction	text
context	nonliteral	text features
contrast	nouns	theme
decode	objective summary	thesaurus
describes	opinion	timeline
details	organize	topic
diagram	outline	transitional
dictionary	paragraph	verb tense
distinguish	parallel structure	verbs
edit	paraphrase	
effect	parentheses	
elements	passage	
essay	patterns	
events	period	

Mathematics Vocabulary

Mathematics Vocabulary for sign language translation, object replacement, tactile graphics, word boards or word banks, and AT/AAC devices.

addition	figure	proportion
angle	formula	proportional relationship
area	fraction	quantities
array	graph	quantity
average	greatest	ranges of data
bar graph	grid	rate
Celsius	height	relationship
centimeters	histogram	round
circumference	hypotenuse	scatter plots
comparison	identify	shaded width
congruent	increase	shape
convert	least	similar
corresponding	length	slope
cost	less than	solve
cube	line plot	square
cylinder	linear	subtraction
data	mean	summarize
data table	measurement	surface area
decimal	model	symbol
decrease	multiplication	tally chart
dimensions	negative	temperature
divided	non-linear	thermometer
division	number	triangle
equal	origin	unit
equation	parallel	value
exponent	pattern	variables
expression	perimeter	volume
extension	place value	weight
Fahrenheit	positive	x-axis
farthest	problem	y-axis

Science Grade 5 Vocabulary (AZ, BIE, ME, and USVI only)

Vocabulary for sign language translation, object replacement, tactile graphics word boards or banks, and AT/AAC devices.

air	goal(s)	predict
amount	gravity	present (time)
animal	grow	protect
arrow	habitat	rain/rainy
atmosphere	heat/to heat	recycle/recycling
average biosphere	heat energy	resource
characteristic	human	reproduce/reproduction
claim	hydrosphere	rock
cloud(s)/cloudy	ice	sample
compare	imprint	sand
cool/to cool (down)	inherit/inherited	season(s): fall, winter, spring, summer
bar graph	interact/interaction	scale
data/data table	land	shadow
day	living thing(s)	similar
design	light energy matter	skeleton
diagram	measure/measurement	soil
direction, including right, left, forward, backward	melt	solar system
distance	millions of years ago	sound energy
Earth	mixture	star
ecosystem	model	stored energy
electrical energy	Moon	substance
energy	motion	survive/survival
energy of motion	move/movement	Sun/sunlight/sunny
energy transfer	night	system
environment	observe/observation	temperature
evidence	ocean	tool
fertilization	offspring	trait
food chain	organism	units: grams, meters, etc.
fossil	parent(s)	water
freeze/to freeze	pattern	weigh/weight
graph	plant	wind
geosphere	pollinate/pollination	weather
	pollute/pollution	
	precipitation	

Science Grade 8 Vocabulary (AZ, BIE, ME, and USVI only)

Vocabulary for sign language translation, object replacement, tactile graphics word boards or banks, and AT/AAC devices. Knowledge of Grade 5 vocabulary is assumed at Grade 8.

absorb (light, waves)	hot spot	rate (as in breathing rate or another defined rate)
absorption (into soil)	impact	reflect/reflected/reflection
before/after	infiltration	renewable energy
boiling point	investigation	respiratory system
cause/effect	kinetic energy	revolve/revolution
chemical	least/most	river
chemical reaction	liquid	rock formation
compete/competition	living, nonliving	rotation
conclude/conclusion	lunar/moon phases: full moon, new moon, quarter moon, etc.	runoff
condensation	mass	sediment
conservation (of energy)	material	setup (experimental)
consumer	melting point	shelter
cycle (such as water cycle)	meteor	short-/long-term
deforestation	muscular system	small/large scale
decomposer	nutrient(s)	smog
density	organ(s)*: stomach, lungs, heart, brain, intestine, liver, kidney, bone, muscle, spine, skull, blood vessels, skin, eyes, ears, hand, fingers, nose, mouth, throat, tongue, teeth, etc.	solar (energy, panel)
deposit/deposited	organism	solid
distance	organ system(s)*: circulatory, respiratory, muscular, digestive, nervous, excretory	solstice
earthquake	overfishing	soluble/solubility
eclipse (lunar and solar)	over time	speed substance
emissions	part(s) (vs whole)	sunlight
environment/environmental	percolation	support (evidence)
erode/erosion	population	technology
equinox	position	tectonic plate
evaporation	process	tilt (Earth's)
experiment	producer	transmit (light, waves)
fertilizer	property (chemical)	transpiration
flammable/flammability		units: centimeters, degrees Celsius or Fahrenheit, minutes, hours, etc.
flow		uplift
food chain/food web		variable (experimental)
force (push, pull)		volcano
fossil fuel(s)		wave(s)
gene/genetic		weathering
greenhouse gas(es)		
global climate change		
groundwater		
growth		
height		

* Items may include the names of major cells, tissues, organs, organ systems, blood vessels, bones, and muscles can be used if introduced in the item stimulus or provided on a labeled diagram. Students are not responsible for memorizing the names of specific organs beyond those listed here.

Science High School Vocabulary (AZ, BIE, ME, and USVI only)

Vocabulary for sign language translation, object replacement, tactile graphics word boards or banks, and AT/AAC devices. Knowledge of Grade 5 and Grade 8 vocabulary is assumed at High School.

amino acid(s)	expand	outer core (Earth's)
ancestors	explanation	outer crust (Earth's)
ash	extinction	outer shell (electrons)
asteroid	factor	particle
atom	(fair) test	pedigree
axis/tilt (Earth's)	family (of elements)	periodic table
battery	fertilizer	planet
biodiversity	frost	plate tectonics
cave	genes	potential energy
chromosomes	gene forms	predator
circuit	genetic family tree	prey/preys on
climate	geosphere	probability***
closed circuit	glacier	procedure
coil	gravitational potential energy	produce
collide/collision	group (of elements)	product
community	habitat	pros and cons
compass	hydrosphere	protein
constraint	hypothesis	Punnett square
contract (muscle)	increase/increased	rainfall
convection	inner core (Earth's)	reactant
crater	instructions	related, closely related
criteria	introduce	sea level
crust	iron filings	sediment
crystal	kinetic energy	sequence (of amino acids)
decrease	lithosphere	solution (design)
device	lunar/moon	stable (element)
disease	magnet	stream
dissolve	magnetic field	structure
DNA	mantle	switch (electric circuit)
Earth materials	metal, metallic (element)	test (a hypothesis)
el Niño	meteorite	units: joules, kilometers, tons, etc.
electric current	molecule	volcanic cloud
electromagnet	mutation (genetic)	waste
electron	offspring	water quality
element**	open circuit	
embryo		
equation (chemical equation)		
erupt/eruption		

** Items may also include the names of the first 88 elements in the periodic table (per content limits) and when provided in a stimulus.

*** Students do not need to know how to calculate They simply need to recognize the term when used in a graph or data table.

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