

Unit: 5. CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS IN OUR WORLD

VOCABULARY

acid rain	rain with a pH lower than 5.0
absolute zero	the temperature at which all atomic motion ceases
blackbody curve	a graph of the intensity versus the wavelength of the energy given off by a star
carbon cycle	all of the physical processes and chemical reactions that result in the movement of carbon between the biosphere (living forms) and the geosphere (water, earth, and atmosphere)
carbon footprint	a calculation that considers an individual's contribution to the process of global warming based on activities leading to greenhouse gas production
coral bleaching	the loss of photosynthetic algae from a coral reef leading to the loss of color
ellipse	the shape of planetary orbits, defined by two focus points, a major axis, and a minor axis
exoplanet	a planet outside our Solar System
geocentric	an Earth-centered view of the universe
global warming	an overall increase in world temperatures that may be caused by additional heat being trapped by greenhouse gases
greenhouse gas	components of the air mixture that trap infrared (heat) energy
ground state	the normal low energy state of electrons in atoms
heliocentric	a theory which holds that the Sun is at the center of rotation for the Solar System

intensity	a measure of the amount of energy that comes out of each square meter of the surface of an object
ocean acidification	a decrease in the pH of the surface waters of the ocean
radial motion	motion away from or toward an observer
smog	air pollution resulting from reactions between smoke particles and oxygen, the products of which are suspended in fog
spectral classification	a letter designation indicating the temperature of a star as determined by spectral evidence
spectrograph	machine that separates and analyzes incoming light and produces a graphical or color output of the result
spectroscopy	the study of the way in which atoms absorb and emit light
spectrum	an ordered distribution of wavelengths and frequencies of energy
transverse motion	motion across the line of sight of an observer