

# Physics Terms Study Sheet 1

1. absolute zero      The lowest temperature possible, where no thermal energy remains in a substance.
2. acceleration      The rate of change of velocity per unit of time.
3. alternating current      An electric current that reverses its direction periodically.
4. amplitude      The maximum extent of a vibration or displacement.
5. antiparticle      A subatomic particle having the same mass as a given particle but opposite electric or magnetic properties.
6. atom      The basic unit of a chemical element.
7. battery      A device that stores chemical energy and converts it to electrical energy.
8. black hole      A region of space having a gravitational field so intense that no matter or radiation can escape.
9. Bohr      Scientist known for his model of the atom.
10. capacitor      A device used to store an electric charge.
11. cathode      The negatively charged electrode.
12. chain reaction      A reaction in which the products themselves spread the reaction.
13. circuit      A closed loop that allows current to flow.
14. conductor      A material that allows the flow of electrical current.
15. cosmology      The science of the origin and development of the universe.
16. current      The flow of electric charge.
17. dark matter      A type of matter hypothesized to account for a large part of the total mass in the universe.
18. density      Mass per unit volume of a substance.
19. diffraction      The bending of waves around obstacles.
20. doppler      Effect observed when the source of a wave moves relative to an observer.