

**FOSS Variables Module
Glossary
2005 Edition**

Aeronautics: The science dealing with the operation of aircraft. (SS)

Aileron: A movable airfoil at the trailing edge of an airplane wing that controls the banking of the airplane. (SS)

Anemometer: An instrument used to measure the speed of wind. (SS)

Astronomer: A scientist who studies objects and events in the solar system and beyond. (SS)

Bank: To tilt sideways when turning. (SS)

Barometer: An instrument used to measure the pressure of the atmosphere, which assists in forecasting the weather. (SS)

Capacity: The maximum volume of fluid a container can hold. (TG)

Circuit: A course around something, such as the circular path in which an ocean current might flow. (SS)

Combustion chamber: A closed space where something burns, often explosively, such as gasoline in a motor. (SS)

Controlled experiment: An experiment in which one, and only one, variable is changed in order to assess its effect. (TG)

Cycle: Any motion or activity that repeats itself. (TG)

Density: The ratio of the mass of a material in proportion to its volume. (SS)

Elevator: A movable airfoil attached to the tail of a plane that controls motion up and down. (SS)

Glider: An aircraft that has wings but no engine. (SS)

Hydraulics: Operation by the pressure of water or other liquids in motion. (SS)

Hypothesis: A proposed answer to a question. (SS)

Lacrosse: A ballgame where players use long-handled nets to catch and throw the ball and score goals. (SS)

Oceanographer: A scientist who studies the ocean. (SS)

Paleontologist: A scientist who studies what life was like millions of years ago. (SS)

Pendulum: A mass hung from a fixed point, free to swing back and forth when put in motion. (TG, SS)

Pressurized: Maintaining a pressure higher than the surroundings. (SS)

Prism: A piece of transparent material that separates light into a spectrum. (SS)

Rudder: A movable airfoil attached to the rear of an airplane that controls the direction of flight on a horizontal plane. (SS)

Spectrum: The name for the colorful rainbow seen when a beam of light passes through a prism. (SS)

Standard: The basic procedure used in a controlled experiment, before changing any of the variables. (TG)

Supersonic: Traveling faster than the speed of sound. (SS)

System: A set of objects that are related in some way and can be isolated for study. (TG, SS)

Theory: A set of principles that explains a natural event. (SS)

Two-coordinate graph: A graph that shows the outcome of a series of experiments when a variable is changed by steps. (TG)

Variable: A factor or condition that can change and might affect the outcome of an experiment. (TG)

Velocity: The rate at which an object moves in a certain direction. (SS)

Winch: A machine that has a roller on which a rope is wound. (SS)