Projectiles and Vectors Key Terms
On-level Physics

The following are the terms you should be familiar with in order to properly complete this unit. You are expected to be able to define each as well as apply these terms in any situation during this and subsequent units of study.

scalar – a measurable quantity, such as mass, volume, and speed which are fully described by a magnitude alone.

vector - A quantity that is defined by both a magnitude and a direction together.

projectile – Any object that moves through air or through space, acted on only by gravity (and air resistance if any).

parabolic path – the path all projectiles follow, often called an arch; all or some portion of a parabola as defined by $y = x^2$

resultant vector – the vector sum of two or more component vectors.

horizontal component – the component of a resultant vector that lies along the horizontal axis, parallel to the ground for a projectile.

vertical component – the component of a resultant vector that lies along the vertical axis, perpendicular to the ground for a projectile.

range – the horizontal distance a projectile travels.

satellite – an object that falls around the Earth or some other body rather than falling into it. The satellite is the smaller of the two objects.