# DICTIONARY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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BLOOMSBURY

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# A BLOOMSBURY REFERENCE BOOK

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sources and to improve the global relationship between people and the environment. Abbreviation **MAB** (NOTE: It is organised by UNESCO.)

**man-caused** *adjective* ENVIRON same as **human-caused**

**Manchester coding** *noun* COMPUT a method of encoding data and timing signals that is used in communications (NOTE: The first half of the bit period indicates the value of the bit (1 or 0) and the second half is used as a timing signal.)

**mandatory** *adjective* required or ordered by an official organisation or authority

**Mandelbrot set** *noun* MATHS a mathematical equation that is called recursively to generate a set of values that form a fractal image when plotted

**mandible** *noun* ANAT **1.** the lower jaw of vertebrates **2.** a biting mouthpart in insects and other invertebrates

**manganese** *noun* CHEM ELEM a metallic trace element that is used in making steel and is essential for biological life (NOTE: The chemical symbol is **Mn**; the atomic number is **25** and the atomic weight is **54.94**.)

COMMENT: Manganese deficiency is associated with high pH and soils that are rich in organic matter.

**mangrove** *noun* TREES a tropical shrub or tree that grows in saltwater swamps in the estuaries of rivers in Asia and America ○ *Mangrove forests cover muddy tidal marshes, lagoons and estuaries.*

COMMENT: Some mangrove trees produce adventitious roots which take root near the parent tree and form new trees. Others produce seeds which have roots even before they fall from the tree. The result is that mangrove swamps are very thick and spread quickly.

**mangrove swamp** *noun* ECOL a swamp covered with mangroves

**manhole** *noun* ENG a hole in a roadway or pavement leading to a shaft down which workmen can go to inspect the sewers

**manifestation** *noun* BIOL a sign or indication of something

**manifold** *noun* ENG a system of pipes for a fluid from single input to multiple output or multiple input to single output ○ *inlet and exhaust manifolds of a piston engine*

**manifold pressure** *noun* ENG the absolute pressure in the induction system of a piston engine measured in inches of mercury

**manipulate** *verb* COMPUT to move, edit and change text or data ○ *An image processor captures, displays and manipulates video images.*

**manipulation** *noun* COMPUT the moving, editing or changing of text or data ○ *The high-speed database management program allows the manipulation of very large amounts of data.*

**mankind** *noun* BIOL all human beings considered as a whole. Also called **humankind, man**

**man machine interface** *noun* COMPUT hardware and software designed to make it easier for users to communicate effectively with a machine. Abbreviation **MMI**

**man-made** *adjective* ENVIRON made or caused by human beings

**manner** *noun* a way of doing something ○ *Safety checks should be done in the approved manner.*

**mannitol** *noun* BIOCHEM a clear, sweet-tasting alcohol found in many plants, used as a diuretic and sweetener

**manometer** *noun* PHYS an apparatus used to measure gas pressure

**mantissa** *noun* MATHS the fractional part of a number ○ *The mantissa of the number 45.897 is 0.897.*

**mantle** *noun* EARTH SCI a layer of the interior of the Earth, between the solid crust and the core, formed of magma

**manual** *noun* a document containing instructions about the operation of a system or piece of software ○ *The manual is included with the system.* ■ *adjective* **1.** done by hand **2.** carried out by someone without the help of a machine

**manual data processing** *noun* the sorting and processing of information without the help of a computer

**manual entry, manual input** *noun* COMPUT the act of entering data into a computer, by an operator via a keyboard

**manually** *adverb* COMPUT by hand, not automatically ○ *The paper has to be fed into the printer manually.*

**manufacture** *verb* **1.** INDUST to make a product using machines **2.** CHEM to