| Key term | Definition |
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| balanced symbol equation | In a balanced symbol equation, chemical formulae represent the reactants and products. The equation shows how many atoms are rearranged and joined together differently, and gives the relative amounts of reactants and products. |
| catalyst | Substances that speed up chemical reactions but are unchanged at the end. |
| catalytic converter | A part of a car between the engine and exhaust pipe that converts harmful substances made in the engine into less harmful ones. |
| chemical bond | Force that holds atoms together in molecules. |
| chemical reaction | A change in which a new substance is formed. In a chemical reaction, atoms are rearranged and joined together differently. |
| combustion | A chemical reaction in which a substance reacts quickly with oxygen and gives out light and heat. Also called burning. |
| conservation of mass | In a chemical reaction, the total mass of reactants is equal to the total mass of products. This is conservation of mass. Mass is conserved in chemical reactions and in physical changes. |
| conserved | When the quantity of something does not change after a process takes place. |
| decomposition | A chemical reaction in which a compound breaks down to form more than one product. |
| endothermic reaction | An endothermic reaction takes in energy, usually as heat. In other words, it transfers energy from the surroundings. |
| energy level diagram | Diagram showing the relative energies of the reactants and products. It shows whether a reaction is endothermic or exothermic. |
| exothermic reaction | An exothermic reaction gives out energy, usually as heat or light. In other words, it transfers energy to the surroundings. |
| fossil fuel | A fuel made from the remains of animals and plants that died millions of years ago. Fossil fuels include coal, oil, and natural gas. |
| fuel | A substance that stores energy in a chemical store which it can release as heat. |
| non-renewable | Energy resources that have a limited supply and that cannot be replaced within a short timeframe. |
| physical change | One that changes the physical properties of a substance, but no new substance is formed. A physical change is reversible. |

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| products | Substances that are formed in a chemical reaction, shown on the right of the arrow in a chemical equation. |
| reactants | Substances that react together, shown on the left of the arrow in a chemical equation. |
| renewable | A fuel that can be easily replaced within a short timeframe. |
| thermal decomposition | A chemical reaction in which a compound breaks down on heating to form more than one product. |