Aerosol: A suspension of liquid or solid particles in a gas.

Aitken nuclei: Those particles and ions measured by means of an instrument in which water vapor is made to condense on particles by supersaturating the vapor; the term "condensation nuclei" is often used synonymously.

Air mass: A widespread body of air, the properties of which can be identified as (a) having been established while that air was situated over a particular region of the earth's surface and (b) undergoing specific modifications while in transit away from the source region. An air mass is often defined as a widespread body of air that is approximately homogeneous in its horizontal extent, particularly with reference to temperature and moisture distribution; in addition, the vertical temperature and moisture variations are approximately the same over its horizontal extent.

Alkaline: The opposite of acidic. An alkaline compound can upon dissolution in water decrease the amount of hydrogen ions (H^+). This process is due to the fact that alkaline compounds can add hydroxy ions (OH^-), which will neutralize the hydrogen ions.

Alkalinity: The quantity of hydroxide ions in solution.

Ammonia (NH_3): Colorless, toxic, corrosive, alkaline gas with a very pungent odor, highly soluble in water, in which it forms the ammonium ion (NH_4^+); also soluble in alcohol, chloroform and ether. It is one of the primary substances that neutralizes acid particles and droplets.

Ammonium ion: See ammonia.

Anion: A negatively charged ion.