

Project glossary

adult

A stage in the life cycle where the animal has grown to full size and can reproduce.

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air

The mixture of gases that animals breathe.

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amphibian

An animal that lives on land and in water. Female amphibians lay eggs in water.

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arachnid

A type of invertebrate with a hard outer covering, eight legs and no wings or antennae.

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bird

An animal with feathers, wings and a beak. Female birds lay eggs with a hard shell.

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birth

The process where a young animal comes out of an adult female's body.

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carnivore

An animal that only eats meat.

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consumer

Living things that feed on other living things. All consumers are animals.

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crustacean

A type of invertebrate with a hard outer covering, 10 or more legs and two pairs of antennae.



egg

An oval or round object laid by a female bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or invertebrate, usually containing a developing embryo.

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embryo

An animal that is developing inside a female animal or inside an egg.

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fish

An animal that lives in water and is covered in scales. Most fish have fins for movement and gills for breathing.

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food

Something that animals eat and plants make that keeps them alive.

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food chain

A diagram showing the feeding relationship between living things where energy in the form of food is transferred from one living thing to another.

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grow/growth

The process in the life cycle of all animals and plants where they increase in size over time.

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habitat

A place where plants and animals live.

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hatch/hatching

The process of an egg breaking open to allow a young animal to come out.

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herbivore

An animal that only eats plants.

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hibernation

A period of deep sleep and inactivity during winter.



insect

An invertebrate with a hard outer covering, six legs, at least one pair of wings, one pair of antennae and three body parts.

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interdependent

The way living things rely on the living and non-living parts of their habitat to survive.

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invertebrate

A group of mostly small animals that can have a soft body or a hard covering or shell. Invertebrates include arachnids, crustaceans, insects, molluscs, myriapods and worms.

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larva

The stage in an insect or amphibian’s life cycle between the egg and the pupa or the egg and the adult.

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life cycle

A series of changes that happen to a living thing during its life.

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mammal

An animal that gives birth to live young, has fur or hair and breathes air with lungs. Females produce milk to feed their offspring.

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metamorphosis

The process of an insect or amphibian changing from its larval form to its adult form.

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microhabitat

A small habitat contained within a larger habitat, such as a rock pool within a beach habitat.

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migration

A seasonal journey from one place to another.



mollusc

A type of invertebrate with a soft, unsegmented body and usually a shell.

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myriapod

A type of invertebrate with a hard outer covering, many pairs of legs, a segmented body and one pair of antennae.

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offspring

The young of an animal or plant.

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omnivore

An animal that eats both meat and plants.

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producer

A living thing that makes its own food for energy. All producers are plants.

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pupa

The stage in an invertebrate’s life cycle between the larva and the adult.

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pupation

The process of change between the larval and adult stage of an invertebrate.

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reproduce/reproduction

The process of producing offspring.

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reptile

An animal that lays soft-shelled eggs, has skin covered in scales and breathes with lungs.



season

One of the four periods of the year, including spring, summer, autumn and winter.

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shelter

A place that gives protection from weather or dangers.

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space

An area that is empty and available.

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survive

To continue to live or exist.

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water

A clear liquid that all animals and plants need to live.

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worm

A type of invertebrate with a long, soft, flexible, segmented body.

Scientific terms glossary

block graph

A type of graph that uses blocks or rectangles to show different amounts.

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compare

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or different.

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data

Collected information or facts, including numbers, words, measurements or observations.



describe

To say aloud or write how something is done or what something is like.

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diagram

A drawing with labels that shows the parts of something.

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equipment

An object or objects needed for a particular purpose, such as a hand lens, ruler or thermometer.

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investigation

An activity that involves a person studying a subject or problem carefully to learn facts or answer a question. An investigation includes a planning, doing, recording and reviewing stage.

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observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

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prediction

A statement made by a person where they say what they think will happen in the future, using their knowledge or experiences.

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question

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

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record

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

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results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

