

Project glossary

abiotic

Relating to non-living things, such as air and water.

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anus

The opening through which faeces leave the body in some animals, including humans.

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apex predator

An animal at the end of a food chain that is not eaten by any other animal.

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bacteria

A type of microorganism, some of which can cause disease.

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biotic

Relating to living things, such as plants and animals.

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canine

A pointed tooth used for gripping and tearing chewy food, such as meat.

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carbohydrate

A nutrient that is the body's main source of energy and found in foods such as potatoes and pasta.

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carnivore

An animal that only eats meat from other animals.

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consumer

A living thing that eats other living things.

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crown

The visible part of a tooth above the gum.

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cuspid

A cone-shaped bump on the crown of a tooth.



dentine

A hard, yellow substance under the tooth enamel that gives structure and colour to the tooth.

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digestion

The process where food is broken down into small particles that can be absorbed by the body.

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digestive acid

A mixture of chemicals in the stomach that digest food.

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digestive enzyme

A chemical that breaks down food into smaller particles to be absorbed by the body.

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digestive organ

A body part that helps the body to digest food.

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digestive system

All the body parts that work together to digest food, including the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine and large intestine.

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ecosystem

A community of living organisms and their environments that interact with each other.

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excretion

The process of eliminating waste from the body of a living organism, including undigested food waste.

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faeces

Undigested food waste that is excreted from the large intestine through the rectum and anus.

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fluoride

A chemical that can be added to toothpaste to prevent tooth decay.



food chain

A diagram that shows how food energy is transferred from one living thing to another.

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food energy

Energy stored in food that is transferred to the consumer when eaten to allow it to grow, move and survive.

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food web

A diagram that shows how food chains in an ecosystem link together.

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frugivore

An animal that eats mostly fruit.

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herbivore

An animal that only eats plant parts.

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incisor

A tooth with a sharp, straight edge used for slicing and cutting food.

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insectivore

An animal that eats mostly invertebrates, such as insects.

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interdependence

The way in which all living things depend on the biotic and abiotic features of their ecosystem for their survival.

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large intestine

The wider, shorter section of intestine that removes excess water from undigested food before it exits the body through the rectum and anus.

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mandible

The lower jaw.

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maxilla

The upper jaw.



microorganism

A living thing that is too small to be seen without a microscope.

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molar

A wide tooth at the back of the mouth with four or five cusps used to crush and grind food.

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mouth

A body part containing the teeth, tongue and saliva.

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nutrient

A substance that plants and animals need to grow, live and stay healthy.

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oesophagus

A muscular tube that joins the pharynx, or throat, to the stomach.

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omnivore

An animal that eats both plant parts and meat from animals.

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oral hygiene

The practice of keeping the mouth and teeth clean to prevent tooth decay and gum disease.

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organism

A living thing, such as an animal, plant or microorganism.

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permanent teeth

A human’s second set of teeth that are permanent.

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photosynthesis

The process where leaves make food to provide energy for a plant.

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piscivore

An animal that eats mostly fish.



plaque

A sticky coating of food particles, saliva and bacteria that forms on the teeth after eating.

predator

An animal that hunts, kills and eats other animals for food.

premolar

A wide tooth with two or three cusps used to crush and grind food.

prey

An animal that is killed by another animal for food.

primary consumer

An animal that eats a producer.

primary teeth

A human’s first set of teeth that fall out at around the age of six years.

producer

A living thing that makes its own food for energy, such as a plant.

protein

A nutrient the body needs to build muscle that is found in foods such as meat or beans.

pulp

Tissue found in the centre of a tooth that contains nerve endings and a blood supply.

rectum

The end of the large intestine that leads to the anus.

root canal

A space in the root of a tooth that contains nerves and blood vessels.

saliva

A liquid inside the mouth that contains digestive enzymes to digest food.



secondary consumer

An animal that eats a primary consumer.

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stomach

A muscular, bag-shaped organ that contains digestive acid and enzymes to digest food.

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small intestine

The narrower, longer section of the intestine that digests food and absorbs nutrients.

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tertiary consumer

An animal that eats a secondary consumer.

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tongue

A muscular body part in the mouth used to move food around during chewing and swallowing. It is also used for speaking.

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tooth

A hard structure found in the mouth used for biting, chewing and grinding food.

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tooth enamel

The very hard, thin outer layer of a tooth that protects against harmful bacteria and hot and cold temperatures.

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vitamin

A nutrient needed for good health, such as Vitamin C.

Scientific terms glossary

compare

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

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conclusion

The outcome of an investigation or an explanation of what has been found out using data collected.



data

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

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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 show the parts of something.

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equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as beakers and cylinders.

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evidence

A collection of data or facts that can prove whether a statement is or is not true.

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fair test

A test or investigation in which only one variable is changed.

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findings

The information or facts that a person discovers from carrying out an observation, investigation or research.

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investigation

An activity that involves investigating 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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method

A set of instructions or steps to follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

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observe

To watch or look at something carefully.



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

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research

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

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results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

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table

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

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variable

A factor, such as an object or condition that changes during an investigation.

