

Project glossary

acne

A skin condition, common in adolescents, where spots appear on the face and sometimes other parts of the body, such as the back and chest.

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adolescent

A stage in the life cycle of a mammal, bird or amphibian. In the mammalian life cycle, it is the stage between juvenile and adult.

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adult

A stage in the life cycle of all vertebrates. Also a fully-developed person or animal that has grown to full size.

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ageing

The process of growing old.

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aggression

Feelings of anger or violent behaviour.

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amphibian

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water. Female amphibians lay eggs in water.

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bird

A warm-blooded vertebrate with feathers, wings and a beak. Female birds lay eggs with a hard shell.

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birth

The process where a baby comes out of a female’s body.

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blastocyst

A hollow ball of cells that develops within 24 hours of fertilisation.

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breasts

The two soft, rounded parts on a female’s chest that produce milk after giving birth to a baby.

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cell

The smallest living unit that is the building block of all living things.

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deterioration

The process of losing health and weakening.

development

The process of changing, growing or becoming more advanced.

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egg

A female sex cell that develops into an embryo if fertilised by a male sex cell.

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embryo

A stage in the mammalian life cycle when a mammal is in the very early stages of development inside the uterus following sexual reproduction.

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emotion

A strong feeling.

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fallopian tube

Two tubes in the female reproductive system that connect the ovaries to the uterus and through which eggs travel.

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female

The sex that can lay eggs or produce babies.

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fertilisation

The joining of a female egg and a male sperm during sexual reproduction to form an embryo.

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fish

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives in water and is covered in scales. Most fish have fins for movement and gills for breathing.

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foetus

A stage in the mammalian life cycle when a mammal in the uterus has begun to develop limbs and organs.

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gestation

The length of time the young of a mammal develops inside the female's body until birth.

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growth

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

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growth spurt

A rapid increase in size in a short period of time.

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hormone

A chemical produced inside the body of an animal or plant that can lead to growth and development.



infant

A baby or very young child.

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insect

An invertebrate with six legs and a body divided into three parts: a head, thorax and abdomen. Most have wings at some stage of their lives.

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juvenile

A stage in the mammalian life cycle between embryo and adolescent.

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larva

A stage in an insect and amphibians' life cycle.

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life cycle

A series of changes that happen to one generation during their life.

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lifespan

The length of time that a living thing lives from birth to death.

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male

The sex that fertilises eggs but does not lay eggs or give birth to babies.

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mammal

A vertebrate animal that is warm blooded, 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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menopause

The time when a woman stops having periods. This is usually around 50 years old.

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metamorphosis

The process in which an insect or amphibian changes from its immature to adult form.

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mood swing

A sudden or intense change of emotions.

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offspring

The young of an animal or plant.

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ovary

A reproductive organ that is part of the female reproductive system and produces eggs. There are two in a female's body.



penis

A reproductive organ that is part of the male reproductive system and transfers semen from the male to the female during sexual intercourse. Also used for urinating.

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period

A time each month when the uterine lining, consisting of spongy tissue and blood, passes out of the female's body through the vagina.

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preschool

Children between two and five years old.

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process

A series of changes that happen naturally.

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puberty

The process where an adolescent's body develops and changes as they become an adult capable of reproducing. This can begin any time between the ages of 8 and 14 years old.

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pubic hair

Hair that starts to grow above and around a person's reproductive organs that are outside their body, such as the penis, during puberty.

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pupa

A stage in an insect's life cycle between larva and adult when the larva is contained in a hard protective covering. The insect transforms to its adult form during this stage.

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reaction time

The time between a stimulus and a response.

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reproduction

The process of producing offspring.

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reproductive organ

An organ involved in producing offspring. The male reproductive organs include the testicles and penis. The female reproductive organs include the ovaries, uterus and vagina.

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reproductive system

A set of organs that are responsible for producing offspring.

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reptile

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lays soft-shelled eggs, has skin covered in scales and breathes with lungs.



self-esteem

Confidence and a feeling of being happy with your character and abilities.

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semen

A thick, whitish liquid that contains sperm.

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sexual intercourse

The process by which sperm from a male are inserted into the body of a female.

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sexually mature

Capable of reproducing.

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sexual reproduction

The process by which a male sperm and a female egg join to produce offspring.

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sperm

Male sex cells that fertilise an egg in the female reproductive system.

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stage

One part of a life cycle or period of development.

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sweat

A liquid with small amounts of salt that passes through the skin.

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testicle

Two reproductive organs that are part of the male reproductive system and produce sperm.

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umbilical cord

A flexible tube through which a foetus receives food and oxygen from its mother while in the uterus.

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urethra

The tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body. Semen also travels along this tube from the testicles to the penis.

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uterus

A reproductive organ that is part of the female reproductive system where a blastocyst develops into an embryo and then a foetus before birth.

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vagina

A reproductive organ that is part of the female reproductive system. It is a flexible passage connecting the uterus to the external reproductive organs.



vertebrate

An animal that has a backbone.

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warm blooded

To maintain the body at a specific temperature regardless of the temperature of the surroundings.

Scientific terms glossary

conclusion

An explanation of what has been found out using data collected.

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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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correlation

A relationship between the variables on a scatter graph.

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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 shows the parts of something.

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equipment

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

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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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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 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.



line graph

A type of graph that uses a line to show changes over time.

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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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negative correlation

When the points on a scatter graph form a line that slants downwards from the top left to the bottom right. This means that as one variable increases, the other decreases.

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no correlation

No relationship between the variables on a scatter graph.

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observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

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positive correlation

When the points on a scatter graph form a line going upwards from the bottom left to the top right of the scatter graph. This means that as one variable increases, so does the other.

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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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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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review

The act of looking at all the data or facts collected from an investigation or test.



scatter graph

A way of displaying data. It is a type of graph used to show the relationship between two sets of data, called variables.

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spreadsheet

An electronic document where data can be recorded. The data is organised in rows and columns like in a table.

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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.

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Venn diagram

A type of sorting diagram with two overlapping circles that show sets or groups of things.

