

Project glossary

adaptation

A physical or behavioural characteristic that allows a living thing to better survive in its habitat.

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ancestor

A living thing from which others have evolved.

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animal kingdom

A group of living things that includes amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals and reptiles.

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artificial selection

A process in which humans breed animals and plants with desirable characteristics.

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asexual reproduction

The process by which a single parent produces identical offspring called clones. Microorganisms and some plants reproduce asexually.

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bacteria

Unicellular living things, some of which can cause disease.

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characteristic

A quality or physical feature of a living thing.

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classification

The arrangement of all living things into groups based on their shared characteristics.

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deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)

The inherited material inside all cells that carries the instructions needed for that living thing to develop and survive.

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dinosaur

A group of land-living reptiles with an upright stance that became extinct around 65 million years ago.



evolution

The process by which complex living things developed from simple life forms during the history of Earth.

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evolve

To change gradually over a long period of time.

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extinct

No longer existing.

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fossil

The remains or traces of once-living things preserved as rock.

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fungus kingdom

A group of living things that includes mushrooms, mould and yeast.

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gene

A small section of DNA that acts as instructions for a specific inherited characteristic, such as eye colour.

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genetics

The scientific study of inheritance in living things.

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host

A living thing on which other living or non-living things, such as viruses, live.

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inheritance

When living things pass on characteristics to their offspring following reproduction.

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kingdom

A large classification group, such as animals or plants.

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microorganism

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



monera kingdom

A group of unicellular living things, such as bacteria.

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multicellular

Consisting of many cells.

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natural selection

The natural process by which living things that are best adapted to their environment are most successful at surviving and reproducing, passing on their characteristics to their offspring.

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naturalist

A person who studies living things.

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origin

The beginning of something.

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palaeontologist

A scientist who studies fossils.

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pathogen

A disease-causing microorganism.

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plant kingdom

A group of living things that includes all flowering, cone-bearing, spore-producing and non-vascular plants.

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protista kingdom

A group of living things with some similar characteristics to animals, plants and fungi, such as algae and slime moulds.

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sexual reproduction

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

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species

A group of similar living things that can reproduce naturally.



unicellular

Consisting of a single cell.

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variation

The differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species.

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virus

A non-living, microscopic, infectious particle, which needs a host to survive and reproduce.

Scientific terms glossary

bar chart

A way of displaying discontinuous or discrete data.

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bias

Personal beliefs or inaccurate methods, measurements and conclusions that create flawed investigation results.

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classify

To arrange things into groups according to features they have in common.

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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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conclusion

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

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continuous data

Data that can take any numerical value.

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data

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



diagram

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

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discontinuous data

Data where there is a limited choice of groups and there are no values between the groups. Also known as discrete data.

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equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a data logger or light meter app.

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fair test

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

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hypothesis

An idea or explanation for something that has not yet been proved.

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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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line graph

A way of displaying data where both axes show continuous data.

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measurement

The exact amount of something, such as the length, height, volume or voltage in standard units.

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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 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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scatter graph

A way of displaying two sets of data to see if there is a correlation.

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table

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

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theory

A well-constructed explanation of an aspect of the natural world that is backed up by evidence, facts and scientific principles.

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variable

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

