

Glossary

Abiotic	nonliving things
Acid	a dangerous chemical inside your stomach that kills any bacteria that may be on the food you eat
Addicted	a time when your body is tricked into believing that it needs a drug to survive
Algae	"al-gee"; Plant-like protists
Allergy	result of your immune system working too hard to get rid of things in your body; itchy and watery eyes, sore throats and a runny nose are some signs of an allergy
Alpine tundra	a tundra that is found on the tops of mountains

Amphibians	"am-fib-ee-anz"; cold-blooded vertebrates with smooth wet skin
Animal kingdom	most organisms in this kingdom can move on their own and are heterotrophic
Antibiotics	"an-ti-bi-ot-icks"; chemicals that are made to attack bacteria and get rid of them without hurting you in the process
Aquatic biome	a biome that includes all organisms that live within fresh water or salt water
Arctic tundra	a tundra that is found around the north pole
Arteries	"pipes" that are used to move blood out of your heart to your body
Arthropods	the largest group of invertebrates that include spiders, insects and crustaceans
Autotrophic	being able to make your own food

Bacteria	single celled organisms that live in soil, water, and other organisms
Bile	a liquid that is made by your liver and is used to digest any fat that is in your food
Biodiversity	"bio-di-vers-ity"; all of the different kinds of life that exist on the world
Biomes	areas of the world that have the same temperature, amount of rainfall, kind of soil and habitats
Biotic	all living or deceased organisms
Birds	warm-blooded vertebrate animals which are covered in feathers
Brain	an organ that controls what your body does

Brainstem	found between your spine and the cerebrum, this part of your brain helps you to breath, swallow, digest food and also controls how fast your heart beats and how it pumps blood through your body
Burrow	to dig
Canals	three curved tubes in your ear that are filled with fluid; acts like the cochlea but works to keep you balanced
Capillaries	"cap-ill-air-ez"; the smallest possible "pipe" that can be used to carry blood
Cardiac	anything related to the heart
Cardiac muscle	a kind of muscle that is only found in the heart
Carnivores	these are the animals that eat other animals (like the herbivores) for food

Carrying capacity	a balance of predators and prey in a habitat
Cartilage	a "cushion" of cells between your bones to keep them from rubbing together
Cavity	A place where bacteria have eaten a part of your teeth
Cell wall	a firm structure that surrounds a plant cell and protects it from harm
Cells	the smallest part of a living organism
Cerebellum	"sarah-bell-um"; smaller than the cerebrum; helps you to keep your balance and controls all of your reflexes
Cerebrum	"suh-ree-brum"; the largest part of your brain that contains four lobes

Cetaceans	"see-tah-see-anz"; these warm-blooded vertebrates (such as whales and dolphins) breathe air above the water
Chloroplast	special organelles that contain chlorophyll
Chlorophyll	"klor-o-fill"; a chemical found inside chloroplasts that uses sunlight to make food for the cell
Classify	to group things
Cochlea	"coke-lee-ah"; looks like a seashell and is filled with fluid; when sound waves vibrate the eardrum, tiny hairs inside the cochlea vibrate too; each hair sends a different message to the brain
Cocoon	the name for the pupa of a moth
Cold-blooded	an animal whose body stays about the same temperature as their habitat

Coniferous forest biome	a biome that has long winters and is filled with trees known as conifers
Conifers	nonflowering vascular plants with short, waxy needles instead of leaves which make seeds that are called "cones" (like pinecones)
Conservation	the protection and careful use of resources and the environment
Consumers	animals that get all of their nutrients by eating (or consuming) other organisms
Contract	"to shorten"
Crustaceans	"krus-tase-shun"; crustaceans are animals like lobsters or crabs that have an exoskeleton and pinchers
Cytoplasm	"sight-o-plaz-m"; a gooey fluid that fills up the inside of a cell

Deciduous forest biome	a biome that is filled with trees that lose their leaves in the fall and have four separate seasons (summer, fall, winter and spring)
Decomposers	organisms that break down biotic material (like dead plants and animals) into more useful forms (like nutrients for living plants)
Desert biome	a biome that has very hot days and cold nights with very little water and few organisms
Diabetes	"di-a-beet-ez"; a common disease that occurs when your pancreas stops making insulin
Diaphragm	"die-a-fragm"; a large skeletal muscle that pushes on your lungs to help you breathe
Diet	the stuff you eat and drink

Digesting	to break down your food into smaller, softer and more usable pieces
Disease	a sickness
DNA	a group of chemicals that contain all of the instructions for making all the structures and materials the organism needs to survive
Eardrum	part of your ear that vibrates when sound waves hit it
Echo	the bouncing back of a sound wave to the person who made the sound
Echolocation	"ek-o-low-kay-shun"; a way for some animals (like bats and dolphins) to keep from bumping into everything by giving off sounds and listening for echos
Electric sense	a way for some animals, like the electric eel, to use a strong electric charge to see, move and to kill other animals

Endoskeleton	having your skeleton inside your body
Environment	everything in the world
Enzymes	chemicals made by organisms that can help the organism do many different things
Epidermis	"eh-pih-dur-miss"; the outer layer of skin cells that can be seen outside of your body
ER	quickly sends protein messages to organelles
Esophagus	"ee-sof-ah-gus"; a long tube that moves food from your throat into your stomach
Estuaries	areas where rivers and streams flow into saltwater habitats

Eukaryotic	"u-carry-ot-ik"; cells or organisms that belong to the Kingdoms Animal, Plant, Protist or Fungi
Evergreens	plants with leaves that stay green throughout the winter
Exhale	to breathe out
Exoskeleton	having your skeleton outside your body
External senses	feelings that give us information about what is going on outside of our body
Extinct	"x-tinkt"; when all of the organisms of a similar kind (population) are no longer alive throughout the world
Eyebrows	bushy strips of hair above your eyes that help to keep sweat from dripping into your eyes

Eyelashes	protective hairs that "sweep away" any bad stuff in the air that may get into your eyes
Eyelids	protective skin that can surround the eye and sweep away dirt and other junk that gets on your eyeballs
Famine	a time when lots of people go hungry and don't have enough food to eat
Ferns	nonflowering vascular plants which never produce flowers
Fertile	having plenty of nutrients in the soil
Fish	cold-blooded vertebrates that live inside the aquatic biome
Flagella	body part of a bacteria that acts like a tail which moves the bacteria through a liquid
Flowering plants	vascular plants that make flowers

Flowers	parts of the plant that make all of the seeds
Food chain	a relationship between species that use each other for food. It is called a "chain" because nutrients are passed from one organism to another
Food pyramid	the food pyramid contains the best information to follow when you want to eat healthy
Food web	a group of food chains linked together
Freshwater	these habitats include ponds, streams, lakes, rivers and wetlands; they are called "freshwater" because of the low amount of salt In the water
Frontal lobe	this lobe controls your ability to speak, movement, emotions and problems solving

Fruits	the parts of the plant that hold the seeds
Gallbladder	a storage area for bile
Germinate	to begin plant growth
Gills	special body parts on fish that allow them to breathe air from the water
Glucagon	a hormone made by your pancreas which informs the liver to send more sugar into your blood
Golgi body	an organelle that wraps up proteins into a bundle inside a cell
Grassland biome	a biome that has good soil for many different kinds of grasses and few trees
Habitat	the place where an organism lives in the environment

Halophiles	"hal-o-files"; archaebacteria that live in very salty water
Herbivores	these animals only eat plants to get their nutrients
Heterotrophic	organisms that cannot make their own food
Hibernate	to sleep through the winter
Hormones	chemical messengers made by your body
Human anatomy	"a-nat-o-mee";the study of the human body
Humans	a person
Immune system	the actions of your skin and white blood cells that protect your body from infections

Infected	the result of your immune system that misses some bacteria or other item that gets into your body; this makes a cut warm, red in color and filled with a gooey liquid
Infrared	"in-fra-red"; a way for animals (like rattlesnakes) to see the heat coming off of the body of another animal
Inhale	to breathe in
Inherited traits	"in-hair-a-ted"; a feature (like eye color, height, hair color...) that you get from your parents
insects	small organisms with six-legs and an exoskeleton
insulin	a hormone made by your pancreas which informs the liver to stop sending sugar into your blood

Internal senses	types of feelings we receive inside our body like hunger and thirst
Invertebrates	animals that do not have a backbone
Iris	the colorful portion of your eye that changes the size of the pupil
kidneys	two small organs in your body that clean out the waste products from your blood
Kingdom Archaeobacteria	"ark-ee-bak-tear-e-ah"; bacteria that live in very dangerous habitats
Kingdom Eubacteria	"u-bak-tear-e-ah"; common bacteria that can live in every biome of the world
Kingdom Fungi	organisms, like mushrooms, that act as decomposers and absorb their food through their bodies
Kingdom Protista	organisms that share traits with plants, animals and fungi

Kingdoms	six different groups that scientists have placed all living organisms into
Lakes	large bodies of water that are surrounded by land
Landfill	landfills are large fields where trash is dumped and buried
Large intestine	a long organ in your body, attached to the small intestine, that absorbs all of the water out of your food
Larva	the second stage of growth in an insect's life cycle; for a moth, this would be the caterpillar
Leaves	this part of a plant use the nutrients from the roots and sunlight to make food for the plant
Left hemisphere	one half of your brain that takes care of your problem-solving abilities

Life cycles	a pattern for all organisms that include being born, growing into adults, reproducing and dying
Ligaments	bands of cells that connect your bones together
Liver	an organ of the body that filters your blood, stores sugar and makes bile
Lobes	parts of the hemispheres of your brain
Lungs	organ that traps the oxygen you breathe into your body
Lysosome	"lie-so-so-m"; an organelle that gets rid of the waste inside a cell
Lysozyme	"lie-so-zime"; an enzyme found in your body that destroys bacteria
Mammals	warm-blooded vertebrates with fur or hair; a female mammal makes milk to feed her young

Marine	saltwater habitats
Marsupials	"mar-soop-ee-alz"; vertebrate animals like the kangaroo or koala that have a pouch on their body for carrying their children
Material resources	resources you can touch like gas, wood and food
Membrane	a covering that surrounds the cell and protects it
Methanogens	"meth-an-o-gens"; archaebacteria named after the gas they make...methane
Migration	an action by animals in which they leave a biome during the winter months and return in the spring

Mitochondria	"might-o-con-dree-on"; an organelle that takes nutrients from plants and animals and changes it into energy for the cell
Moss	one kind of nonvascular plant that can absorb water, like a sponge, with its entire body
Mucus	"mew-cus"; a slimy, sticky goo that your body produces
Muscle	an organ that helps you to move everything in your body
Need	something you must have in order to stay alive like air, water and nutrients
Nerve endings	areas in your skin that sense the feelings of heat, cold, pressure, pain and taste

Nerves	small fibers in your body that send messages from your sense organs to your spinal cord
Niche	"nitch"; What an organism does in its habitat
Nocturnal	being able to sleep during the day and wake up at night
Non-Flowering plants	vascular plants that do not make flowers
Nonmaterial resources	resources that you cannot touch like happiness, peace, feelings of safety
Nonrenewable resources	resources that can take a long time to be made again (thousands of years!); sometimes these resources cannot be made again at all

Nonvascular plants	plants without body parts to move water from their roots to the stem and to the leaves
Nucleus	"new-klee-us"; the largest organelle in a plant or animal cell; contains the DNA
Nutrients	another word for "food"
Occipital lobe	"ock-sip-it-al"; this lobe controls your sense of vision
Oceans	the largest marine biome in the world
Offspring	a parent's baby
Omnivores	omnivores will eat plants or animals
Organelles	"or-ga-nells"; small structures inside of cells that have a specific job
Organism	any living creature on the planet

Organs	parts of the body that have special jobs to do
Ounce	a way to measure the weight of an object
Oxygen	"ox-e-gen"; the gas humans need to breathe to stay alive
Pancreas	"pan-kre-az"; makes enzymes to help break down the food that comes into your small intestine
Parietal lobe	"pah-rie-a-tal"; this lobe controls your feelings of pain, pressure, temperature, and touch
Permafrost	a layer of frozen soil usually found in the tundra
Photosynthesis	a way for plants to use sunlight, nutrients and water to make their own food

Phototropism	"foe-toe-tro-pizm"; the ability of a plant to sense the direction of sunlight and to grow towards it
Plant Kingdom	a group of organisms that are autotrophic and have some form of leaf, stem and root
Plaque	"plak"; a sticky layer that forms over your teeth; it is a mixture of leftover food, bacteria and bacteria waste
Plasma	the liquid part of your blood
Ponds	small bodies of water that are surrounded by land
Population	a group of similar organisms living in the same area
Population density	a scientific way of saying "the number of individuals of a species in a certain area"

Poultry	chicken, turkey or other birds
Predators	animals that eat other animals for food; also known as a carnivore
Prey	animals that are eaten by predators
Primates	vertebrate animals like the monkey, baboon, chimpanzee and gorilla which have very strong hands and fingers because of the use of thumbs
Producers	plants; they are named "producers" because they are autotrophic and produce their own food
Prokaryotic	"pro-carry-ot-ik"; cells or organisms that belong to the Kingdoms Archaeobacteria or Eubacteria
Proteins	the building blocks for many parts of the body
Protozoans	animal-like protists

Pupa	the third stage of growth in an insect's life cycle; for a moth, this would be the cocoon
Pupil	the black "dot" in your eye where light enters your body
Recycle	using your resources again after changing them
Red blood cells	part of the blood that carries oxygen to all of the muscles and organs of your body
Reduce	using less resources
Reflexes	actions your body goes through without thinking about them
Reintroduction	relocating organisms back into their habitats
Renewable resource	a resource that can be made again like living organisms

Reproduce	the ability of an organism to make another organism of its own kind
Reptiles	a cold-blooded animal with rough, dry skin that is covered in scales; turtles, snakes and alligators are reptiles
Resources	the basic things that an organism or a group of similar organisms can use everyday
Retina	takes a picture of anything you see and sends it to your brain
Reuse	using your resources again without changing them
Rhizomes	"ri-zomes"; part of a plant's root that can grow a new plant
Ribosomes	"ri-bow-so-m"; make protein for the cell
Right hemisphere	one half of your brain that takes care of your creative abilities

Rivers	large bodies of freshwater moving in one direction
RNA	"messages" sent by DNA that are read by the ribosomes
Rodent	vertebrate animals like rats, mice and squirrels who have sharp front teeth used for gnawing
Roots	the parts of a plant under the ground that support the plant and soak up its water and nutrients from the soil
saliva	a liquid created in your mouth
Scales	thin, flat and hard plates on the skin of a reptile
Seedling	a young, small plant
Sense organ	organs such as eyes, ears and skin that are used to collect information outside of our body.

Serving	a certain measurement of food or drink that you should eat in one meal
Skeletal muscles	muscles which stretch to allow your bones to move
Skin	the largest organ of the human body which protects the entire organism
Slime molds	fungus-like protists
Small intestine	a 20-foot long organ that is filled with villi and is the place where you digest your food
Sound waves	vibrations that cause any kind of noise
Species	a group of similar and related organisms that may or may not be living in the same area
Spinal cord	found inside your spine; helps your brain by sending messages throughout your body

Spine	long stack of bones that protect your spinal cord
Stems	parts of a plant that carry all of the water and nutrients from the roots to the leaves; they also help the plant stay upright
Stomach	an acid-filled sack that stores your food before digestion
Streams	small bodies of fresh water moving in one direction
Tadpole	a young frog
Tartar	hardened plaque that forms on your teeth
Taste buds	parts of the tongue that are used for the sense of taste
Taxonomy	the way scientists place all of the different organisms into groups

Tears	fluid that is made by your eyes to keep them wet and clean
Temperate grasslands	grasslands which have hot summers and cold winters
Temporal lobe	"tem-poor-al"; this lobe controls your senses of hearing, smelling and your ability to understand speech
Tendons	groups of cells that attach your skeletal muscles to your bones
Thermophiles	"therm-o-files"; archaebacteria that live in areas with very high temperatures
Tropical grasslands	grasslands which are hot all year long
Tropical rain forest biome	a biome that is always warm, has a lot of rainfall and contains a huge amount of different kinds of plants and animals

Tundra biome	the coldest biome on the planet; contains no trees and very few different kinds of plants and animals
Ulcer	a painful hole in a person's stomach
Vacuole	an organelle that stores extra water and nutrients
Vascular plants	plants with special body parts that move water from their roots to the stem and to the leaves
Veins	large "pipes" that carry blood back into the heart from the body
Vertebrates	animals that contain a backbone
Villi	"vee-lie"; small bumps inside your small intestine that pulls out all of the nutrients from the food you eat
Viruses	a small organism that can spread disease

Want	anything you feel like having that is not a need
Warm-blooded	an organism whose body temperature stays the same, even if its habitat is very cold
Well-balanced diet	the right amount of foods your body needs to survive
Wetlands	large areas of shallow water; also known as swamps
White blood cell	blood cells that act to destroy anything that gets into your body that may be harmful