

# 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.

