

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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cusp

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.

describe

To say aloud or write how something is done or what something is like.

diagram

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

equipment

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

evidence

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

fair test

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

findings

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

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.

method

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

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.

