



Biology Key Words

Currently, within the Biology section of the app, we have the following units:

- Cells and Organisms
- Evolution and extinction
- Inheritance and genetics
- Interdependence
- Photosynthesis and respiration

Cells and Organisms Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
function	The function of something is its job, what it does.
nucleus	The nucleus controls the cell, it contains DNA.
cell membrane	The cell membrane controls movement in and out of cells.
cytoplasm	The cytoplasm is where chemical reactions happen in a cell.
mitochondria	The mitochondria is where respiration occurs in a cell.
chloroplast	The chloroplast is where photosynthesis occurs in a cell.
cell wall	The cell wall strengthens the cell.
respiration	Respiration is a chemical reaction which releases energy from glucose.
photosynthesis	Photosynthesis is a chemical reaction which produces glucose.
specialised	The word specialised means adapted to suit a specific function.
cell	A cell is a building block of living organisms.
tissue	In science, a tissue is formed from lots of the same type of cell.



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organ	An organ is a group of tissues with the same function.
organ system	An organ system is a group of organs with a specific function.
organism	An organism is an individual living thing.
stem cells	Stem cells are unspecialised cells.
embryo	An embryo is a ball of cells which is formed from a fertilised egg.
fertilised egg	A fertilised egg is formed when a sperm and egg fuse together.
microscope	A microscope is a piece of equipment used to see things which are too small to see with the naked eye.
magnify	To magnify means to make something appear larger.
growth	Growth refers to an increase in size.
specific	The word specific means clearly defined, precise.
antagonistic	The word antagonistic means in opposition to.
foetus	The word foetus refers to an unborn offspring in the uterus.
control	In science, to control something means to keep it the same or take it into account.
vacuole	The vacuole is part of a cell filled with cell sap.
ribosome	A ribosome is found in a cell and is used for making proteins.
trachea	The trachea is the scientific name for the windpipe.
exchange	To exchange means to swap one thing for another.
diaphragm	The diaphragm is the muscle under the lungs which helps breathing.
intercostal muscles	Intercostal muscles are the muscles found between the ribs.



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digest	To digest means to breakdown food.
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Evolution and extinction Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
adaptation	An adaptation is a characteristic of an organism which makes it suited to its environment.
characteristic	A characteristic is a feature belonging to a person or thing.
environment	The word environment refers to the surroundings or conditions in which an organism lives.
selective advantage	To have a selective advantage means to be better adapted to the environment.
reproduce	To reproduce, in this topic, means to produce offspring.
offspring	Offspring is a scientific term for children.
mutation	A mutation is an error which occurs when copying a gene during cell division.
natural selection	Natural selection is the theory of how evolution happens.
variation	Variation is the differences between organisms of the same species.
species	A species is a group of similar organisms which can breed and produce fertile offspring.
fertile	In this topic, being fertile means being able to produce offspring.
inherited	The word inherited means passed from one generation to the next.
competition	Competition is the interaction between animal or plant species where they are attempting to share a resource.



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resource	A resource is something in the environment which organisms compete for.
extinct	A species has become extinct when all organisms in the species have died.
fossil	A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism.
evolution	Evolution refers to the changes which occur in a species over time.
survive	To survive means to continue to exist, to remain alive.
biodiversity	Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in an area.
organism	An organism is an individual living thing.

Inheritance and genetics Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
chromosome	A chromosome is a molecule of DNA.
DNA	DNA is found in cells and carries genetic information.
gene	A gene is a length of DNA which codes for a protein.
code	A code is a set of instructions for something.
characteristic	A characteristic is a feature belonging to a person or thing.
cell division	Cell division involves a cell dividing to produce more cells.
variation	In biology, variation refers to the differences between organisms of the same species.
continuous	The word continuous means an unbroken series.
discontinuous	The word discontinuous means it has intervals or gaps.
individual	An individual is a single organism or thing.



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inherited	The word inherited means passed from one generation to the next.
sexual reproduction	Sexual reproduction is the process of producing offspring by fusing sex cells.
sperm	A sperm is a male sex cell.
egg	An egg is a female sex cell.
fuse	To fuse means to join together.
mutation	A mutation is an error when copying a gene during cell division.
offspring	Offspring is a scientific term for children.
fertilisation	Fertilisation is the process of fusing male and female sex cells.
fertile	In this topic, being fertile means being able to produce offspring.
nucleus	The nucleus controls the cell, it contains DNA.
specialised cell	A specialised cell is one which is adapted for a function.
organism	An organism is an individual in a species.
species	A species is a group of similar organisms which can breed and produce fertile offspring.
mean	The mean is the average, when all values are added and divided by how many values are present.

Interdependence Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
ecosystem	An ecosystem is a community and its habitat.
stable	In science, the word stable means not likely to change.



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community	The word community refers to all the populations of different organisms in a habitat.
relationship	In science, a relationship is the way in which two or more individuals connect.
habitat	A habitat is where the organisms live.
population	The word population refers to all the members of a species living in a habitat.
organism	An organism is an individual living thing.
individual	An individual is a single organism or thing.
species	A species is a group of similar organisms which can breed and produce fertile offspring.
competition	The word competition refers to plants and animals competing for resources.
resource	A resource is something available in the environment which can be used by an individual.
producer	In science, a producer makes food via photosynthesis (plants).
produce	To produce means to make.
consumer	A consumer is an organism which consumes food.
decomposer	A decomposer is an organism which breaks down dead plant and animal matter.
biomass	Biomass is living material.
predator	A predator is an animal which hunts prey.
prey	A prey is an animal hunted by predator.
herbivore	A herbivore is an animal which only eats plants.
carnivore	A carnivore is an animal which eats animals.
pollination	Pollination is a process which involves transferring pollen from one plant to another.



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trophic level	A trophic level is a level of a food chain.
survival	Survival means to remain alive.

Photosynthesis and respiration Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
photosynthesis	Photosynthesis is a chemical reaction which produces glucose.
reaction	A reaction is a chemical process where reactants are turned into products.
product	A product is something which is the result of a process.
reactant	A reactant is a substance which takes part in, and changes, during a reaction.
adaptation	An adaptation is a characteristic of an organism which makes it suited to its environment.
respiration	Respiration is a chemical reaction which releases energy from glucose.
aerobic	Aerobic means with oxygen.
anaerobic	Anaerobic means without oxygen.
waste	Waste is an unwanted product of a reaction or process.
fermentation	Fermentation is anaerobic respiration in microorganisms.
lactic acid	Lactic acid is a waste product of anaerobic respiration in humans.
chloroplast	A chloroplast is where photosynthesis occurs.
chlorophyll	Chlorophyll is a green dye which absorbs light.
stomata	Stomata are the holes in the surface of a leaf which are needed for gas exchange.



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exchange	To exchange means to swap one thing for another.
guard cells	Guard cells open and close the stomata.
palisade cell	A palisade cell is a leaf cell which contains lots of chloroplasts.
mitochondria	Mitochondria are where respiration occurs.
microorganism	A microorganism is too small to be seen with the naked eye.
organism	An organism is an individual living thing.