

# Project glossary

## **amphibian**

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water. Female amphibians lay eggs in water.

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## **animal kingdom**

One of the groups into which all living things can be divided.

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## **annelid**

A type of invertebrate with a soft, segmented, round body.

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## **arachnid**

A type of invertebrate with eight legs and no wings or antennae.

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## **arthropod**

A type of invertebrate with a segmented body, jointed legs and a hard exoskeleton.

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## **bird**

A warm-blooded vertebrate with feathers, wings and a beak. Female birds lay eggs with a hard shell.

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## **classification**

The arrangement of living and non-living things into groups or categories.

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## **classification key**

A set of questions that helps to identify a living thing or decide to which group it belongs.

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## **common name**

The everyday name given to living things.

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## **cone-bearing plant (gymnosperm)**

A type of vascular plant that produces seeds inside cones.

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## **crustacean**

A type of invertebrate with 10 or more legs and two pairs of antennae.



**evolution**

A process where living things change some of their physical or behavioural characteristics slowly over a very long time.

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**exoskeleton**

A hard outer layer that covers, supports and protects the bodies of some invertebrates.

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**fish**

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives in water and is covered in scales. Most fish have fins for movement and gills for breathing.

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**flowering plant (angiosperm)**

A type of vascular plant that produces seeds from flowers.

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**insect**

An invertebrate with six legs and a body divided into three parts: a head, thorax and abdomen. Most have wings at some stage of their lives.

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**invertebrate**

An animal without a backbone.

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**mammal**

A vertebrate animal that is warm blooded, gives birth to live young, has fur or hair and breathes air with lungs. Females produce milk to feed their offspring.

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**mollusc**

A type of invertebrate with a soft, unsegmented body and usually a shell.

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**myriapod**

A type of invertebrate with many pairs of legs, a segmented body and one pair of antennae.

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**non-vascular plant**

A plant that does not have tubes to carry water and nutrients.



**observable feature**

A feature that can be seen.

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**plant kingdom**

One of the groups into which all living things can be divided.

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**reptile**

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lays soft-shelled eggs, has skin covered in scales and breathes with lungs.

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**scientific name**

A unique name, written in Latin, given to a living thing that helps identify it and its relationship to other similar living things.

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**seed**

A small object that a plant makes to grow new plants. It includes an embryo, food store and seed coat.

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**segmented**

The bodies of some invertebrates that are divided into separate, repeated parts.

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**shell**

A hard protective case found on some animals.

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**species**

A group of animals or plants that have similar characteristics and can breed with each other.

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**spore**

A single cell produced by some plants, such as ferns, that can grow into a new plant.

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**spore-producing plant**

A type of vascular plant that produces spores instead of seeds to make new plants.

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**taxonomy**

The scientific system of classifying and naming living things.



**vascular plant**

A plant with tubes that carry water and nutrients.

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**vertebrate**

An animal that has a backbone.

# Scientific terms glossary

**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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**describe**

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

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**diagram**

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

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**dichotomous key**

A type of scientific diagram, also known as a classification key or branching tree. It includes a set of questions that helps to identify a living thing or decide to which group it belongs.

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**observe**

To watch or look at something carefully.

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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.

