

Project glossary

acne

A skin condition, common in adolescents, where spots appear on the face and sometimes other parts of the body, such as the back and chest.

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adolescent

A stage in the life cycle of a mammal, bird or amphibian. In the mammalian life cycle, it is the stage between juvenile and adult.

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adult

A stage in the life cycle of all vertebrates. Also a fully-developed person or animal that has grown to full size.

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ageing

The process of growing old.

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aggression

Feelings of anger or violent behaviour.

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amphibian

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

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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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birth

The process where a baby comes out of a female's body.

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blastocyst

A hollow ball of cells that develops within 24 hours of fertilisation.

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breasts

The two soft, rounded parts on a female's chest that produce milk after giving birth to a baby.

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cell

The smallest living unit that is the building block of all living things.

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deterioration

The process of losing health and weakening.



development

The process of changing, growing or becoming more advanced.

egg

A female sex cell that develops into an embryo if fertilised by a male sex cell.

embryo

A stage in the mammalian life cycle when a mammal is in the very early stages of development inside the uterus following sexual reproduction.

emotion

A strong feeling.

fallopian tube

Two tubes in the female reproductive system that connect the ovaries to the uterus and through which eggs travel.

female

The sex that can lay eggs or produce babies.

fertilisation

The joining of a female egg and a male sperm during sexual reproduction to form an embryo.

fish

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

foetus

A stage in the mammalian life cycle when a mammal in the uterus has begun to develop limbs and organs.

gestation

The length of time the young of a mammal develops inside the female’s body until birth.

growth

The process in the life cycle of all animals and plants where they increase in size.

growth spurt

A rapid increase in size in a short period of time.

hormone

A chemical produced inside the body of an animal or plant that can lead to growth and development.



infant

A baby or very young child.

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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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juvenile

A stage in the mammalian life cycle between embryo and adolescent.

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larva

A stage in an insect and amphibians' life cycle.

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life cycle

A series of changes that happen to one generation during their life.

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lifespan

The length of time that a living thing lives from birth to death.

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male

The sex that fertilises eggs but does not lay eggs or give birth to babies.

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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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menopause

The time when a woman stops having periods. This is usually around 50 years old.

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metamorphosis

The process in which an insect or amphibian changes from its immature to adult form.

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mood swing

A sudden or intense change of emotions.

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offspring

The young of an animal or plant.

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ovary

A reproductive organ that is part of the female reproductive system and produces eggs. There are two in a female's body.



penis

A reproductive organ that is part of the male reproductive system and transfers semen from the male to the female during sexual intercourse. Also used for urinating.

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period

A time each month when the uterine lining, consisting of spongy tissue and blood, passes out of the female’s body through the vagina.

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preschool

Children between two and five years old.

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process

A series of changes that happen naturally.

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puberty

The process where an adolescent’s body develops and changes as they become an adult capable of reproducing. This can begin any time between the ages of 8 and 14 years old.

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pubic hair

Hair that starts to grow above and around a person’s reproductive organs that are outside their body, such as the penis, during puberty.

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pupa

A stage in an insect’s life cycle between larva and adult when the larva is contained in a hard protective covering. The insect transforms to its adult form during this stage.

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reaction time

The time between a stimulus and a response.

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reproduction

The process of producing offspring.

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reproductive organ

An organ involved in producing offspring. The male reproductive organs include the testicles and penis. The female reproductive organs include the ovaries, uterus and vagina.

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reproductive system

A set of organs that are responsible for producing offspring.

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reptile

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



self-esteem

Confidence and a feeling of being happy with your character and abilities.

semen

A thick, whitish liquid that contains sperm.

sexual intercourse

The process by which sperm from a male are inserted into the body of a female.

sexually mature

Capable of reproducing.

sexual reproduction

The process by which a male sperm and a female egg join to produce offspring.

sperm

Male sex cells that fertilise an egg in the female reproductive system.

stage

One part of a life cycle or period of development.

sweat

A liquid with small amounts of salt that passes through the skin.

testicle

Two reproductive organs that are part of the male reproductive system and produce sperm.

umbilical cord

A flexible tube through which a foetus receives food and oxygen from its mother while in the uterus.

urethra

The tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body. Semen also travels along this tube from the testicles to the penis.

uterus

A reproductive organ that is part of the female reproductive system where a blastocyst develops into an embryo and then a foetus before birth.

vagina

A reproductive organ that is part of the female reproductive system. It is a flexible passage connecting the uterus to the external reproductive organs.



vertebrate

An animal that has a backbone.

warm blooded

To maintain the body at a specific temperature regardless of the temperature of the surroundings.

Scientific terms glossary

conclusion

An explanation of what has been found out using data collected.

compare

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or different.

correlation

A relationship between the variables on a scatter graph.

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 shows the parts of something.

equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a hand lens, ruler or thermometer.

evidence

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

findings

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

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.



line graph

A type of graph that uses a line to show changes over time.

method

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

negative correlation

When the points on a scatter graph form a line that slants downwards from the top left to the bottom right. This means that as one variable increases, the other decreases.

no correlation

No relationship between the variables on a scatter graph.

observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

positive correlation

When the points on a scatter graph form a line going upwards from the bottom left to the top right of the scatter graph. This means that as one variable increases, so does the other.

prediction

A statement made by a person where they say what they think will happen in the future, using their knowledge or experiences.

question

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

record

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

research

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

review

The act of looking at all the data or facts collected from an investigation or test.



scatter graph

A way of displaying data. It is a type of graph used to show the relationship between two sets of data, called variables.

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spreadsheet

An electronic document where data can be recorded. The data is organised in rows and columns like in a table.

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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.

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Venn diagram

A type of sorting diagram with two overlapping circles that show sets or groups of things.

