

Dictionary of terms - Biology

These are easy marks but only if you know them!

Abiotic	Non-living factors that affect organism
Active transport	Movement of ions or gasses from against the concentration gradient
Adaptation	Change in a species to suit the environment
Adrenal gland	Large gland near the kidneys that releases hormone
Aerobic	Respiration with oxygen
Allele	Different version of gene
Amino acids	Building block of proteins
Amylase	Enzyme that breaks carbohydrates into sugars
Anaerobic	Respiration without oxygen
Antibiotics	Drugs that kill bacteria
Aorta	Major blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood away from the heart
Artery	Thick wall blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood around the body
Asexual reproduction	Reproduction with only one parent, resulting in identical offspring
Aspirin	Painkiller developed from willow bark
Bacteria	Tiny organism that causes illness by releasing toxins
Benign tumour	Lump of cells that are not invading the body
Bile	Produced by the liver, neutralizes stomach acid and emulsifies fats
Biodiversity	The range of different organism that live in an environment
Biotic	Living factors that an organism
Bronchi	Braches of the trachea
Cancer	Uncontrolled cell division within the body
Capillary	Thinned walled blood vessels that allow diffusion of gases and nutrients
Carbon cycle	The movement of carbon through the environment
Carbon dioxide	Gas that has one atom of carbon and two atoms of oxygen
Cardiovascular disease	Narrowing of the blood vessels that can lead to dearth
Carnivore	Only eat animals
Cell	Small structural unit that contains a nucleus and cytoplasm
Cell membrane	Partially permeable membrane that surround the cell and control what goes in and out
Cell wall	Surrounds a cell and help maintain cell shape
Chlorophyll	Green part of a plant
Chloroplast	Where photosynthesis takes place
Chromosome	Long stretch of DNA
Community	The organism that live in a particular environment
Contraception	Mechanism to prevent pregnancy
Cystic fibrosis	Inherited disorder that cause damage to lungs

Cytoplasm	Jelly like substance within a cell
Deoxyribose nucleic acid	Long strand of bases that contain genes
Diabetes	Inability of the bod to control blood glucose levels
Diffusion	Movement of ions or gasses from a high concentration to a low concentration
Digestive system	Organ system that absorbs nutrients from food
Digitalis	Heart drug that comes from foxglove plants
Diploid	Two copies of each chromosome
Dominant	Only one copy of the gene is needed to be expressed
Ecology	The study of organism within and environment
Ecosystem	The organism and the habitat they live in
Egg	Female sex cell
Endocrine system	System that controls hormones and responses
Enzyme	Biological catalyst
Evolution	Gradual change in a species over time
Extinction	No breeding pair of a species exist
Extremophile	Organism that has adapted to live at extreme conditions
Fatty acids	Can be combined with glycerol to make lipids
Follicle stimulating hormone	Hormone that causes an egg to develop
Fossils	Hard parts of long dead organism
Fungi	Group that includes mushrooms and moulds, they live of decomposing material
Gametes	Sex cells
Gene	Section of DNA, that controls a characteristic
Genome	All of the genes in an organism
Genotype	What genes are present
Glycerol	Can be combined with fatty acid to make lipids
Gonorrhoea	Bacteria that cause a sexual transmitted disease causing smelly discharge from the penis or vagina
Haploid	One copy of each chromosome
Health	State of mental and physical wellbeing
Herbivore	Only eats plant
Heterozygous	Different copies of gene
HIV	Virus that interfere with your body's ability to fight disease
Homeostasis	Maintaining of a constant internal environment
Homozygous	Identical copies of gene
Hormones	Chemical that causes cells or tissue to respond
Immune system	Organs in the body that work together to defend against disease
In vitro fertilization	Medical treatment to aid getting pregnant
Lipase	Enzyme that breaks fats into fatty acids and glycerol
Lipids	Stores of energy that can be broken down to form fatty acids and glycerol

Luteinizing hormone	Hormone that causes and egg to be released
Malaria	Parasite transmitted by mosquitoes
Malignant tumour	Lump of cells that have developed that ability to travel to other part of the body
Measles	Viral infection causing fever and rash, most common in children
Meiosis	Type of cell division that ends in four different haploid daughter cells
Menstrual cycle	Monthly build up and breakdown of blood in the uterus
Meristem	Plant tissue found at growing tips
Metabolism	Chemical process that occur to maintain life
Mitochondria	Where respiration takes place
Mitosis	Type of cell division that ends in two identical daughter cells
Nucleus	Control centre of the cell, that holds the DNA
Oestrogen	Hormone that acts of the pituitary gland
Omnivore	Eat plants and animals
Organ system	A number of different organs working together towards one function
Osmosis	Transport of water across a partially permeable membrane
Ovaries	In women, these store the eggs
Ovulation	Releases of an egg from the ovaries
Oxygen debt	Arises after anaerobic respiration, needs oxygen to repay
Palisade mesophyll	Upper layer of cell in a leaf
Pancreas	Large gland behind the stomach which produces digestive enzymes
Pathogen	Causes illness
Penicillin	Antibiotic that comes from mould
Phenotypes	What characteristic are present
Phloem	Carries ions around a plant
Photosynthesis	Process that turns carbon dioxide and water into sugars
Pituitary gland	Located at the base of the brain, produces a large number of hormones
Plasma	Fluid part of the blood
Platelets	Small fragments of blood cells that help clotting
Pollution	Harmful substance in an environment
Polydactyly	An extra finger or toe
Predator	Eats prey
Prey	Something that gets eaten
Primary consumer	Herbivore
Protease	Enzyme that breaks proteins into amino acids
Proteins	Long chains of amino acids, that carry out the majority of functions within the body
Protist	Tiny single celled organism that can cause illness
Pulmonary artery	Blood vessel that carries deoxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs
Pulmonary vein	Blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart
Recessive	Two identical copies of the gene are needed to be expressed

Red blood cell	Carries oxygen around the body, has no nucleus
Reflex arc	Nerve pathway including a sensory nerve a synapse and a motor nerve
Respiration	The process of turning sugars into energy, takes place in mitochondria
Respiratory system	Organ system that moves oxygen around the body
Ribosomes	Part of the cell that is responsible for producing proteins
Rose black spot	Fungal disease cause black spot on leave of plants
Salmonella	Bacteria that cause food poisoning
Selective breeding	Breeding of animals or plants for a particular characteristic
Sexual reproduction	Fusing of male and female gametes
Speciation	New species arising due to environmental change
Sperm	Male sex cell
Spongy mesophyll	Interior layer of cells in a lean
Stem cell	a type of cell that can differentiate into any other type of cell
Testis	In men, these are responsible for the production of sperm
Testosterone	Hormone found predominantly in men
Thyroid	Large gland in the neck which releases hormone
TMV	Virus affecting plants causing a mosaic pattern on leaves
Trachea	Long tube taking air down into the lungs
Transpiration	Process where plant absorb and lose water
Vaccines	Medication that contain inactive or dead virus to help develop immunity
Vein	Blood vessels that have valves and carries deoxygenated blood back to the heart
Vena cava	Major blood vessel that carries deoxygenated blood back to the heart
Virus	DNA within a protein coat that divides by invading cells, the resulting cell death causes illness in the host
Water cycle	The movement of water through eh environment
White blood cell	Part of the immune system, produces antibodies and fights pathogens
Xylem	Carries water around a plant