

**Aquatic**

Living or growing in water.

**Biodiversity**

(or biological diversity) The variation of life at a genetic, species or habitat level.

**Bioinformatics**

The use of computer technology to collect, store, analyse and interpret biological data, such as DNA and protein sequences.

**Carnivore**

Animals that only eat other animals.

**Conservation**

The responsible management and protection of natural resources (including species) to ensure their availability for future generations.

**Ecosystem**

A community of living organisms interacting with their non-living surroundings in a specific area.

**DNA**

(deoxyribonucleic acid) A molecule that carries the genetic information necessary to build and maintain an organism.

**eDNA**

(or environmental DNA) DNA gathered from organic material found in the environment. The DNA is released by organisms from old cells, faeces or bodily fluids, as they pass through the environment.

**Endangered species**

A species that is at high risk of extinction, meaning it is close to disappearing from the wild.

**Eukaryotic**

Eukaryotic organisms contain cells with a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles. Animals, plants and fungi (including yeast) are eukaryotes.

**Freshwater**

Any water with low salt concentration, including rivers, lakes and ponds.

**Habitat**

The place where an organism lives.

**Invasive species**

A non-native species that typically causes ecological harm when introduced to a new habitat.

**Invertebrate**

An animal that does not have a backbone. Examples include worms, insects, spiders and snails.

**Larva**

A juvenile form of an organism before undergoing metamorphosis into the next life stage.

**Native species**

An organism that naturally occurs in a specific geographical region.

**Nocturnal**

An organism that sleeps during the day, becoming active at night.

**Nymph**

An immature form of some invertebrate organisms, typically insects, which undergo metamorphosis into the adult form.

**Omnivore**

Animals that eat both plants and other animals.

**Population**

All the individuals of a particular species living in a specific area.

**Predator**

An animal that hunts and eats another animal (prey).

**Prey**

An animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal (predator).

**Protected species**

A species that is protected by law, meaning it can be illegal to kill, harm or capture protected animals, or pick or damage protected plant species.

**Species**

A group of closely related organisms that have common physical and genetic characteristics and can interbreed to produce fertile offspring.

**Vegetation**

The plant life present in a particular region.