

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.