



# TERM 1: LIFE AND LIVING

## Glossary

Word/term	Explanation
Abiotic component	The non-living component or part of the biosphere
Adventitious roots	A number of roots that is more or less equally thick. These roots all grow out of the bottom end or base of the stem.
Amnion	The fluid-filled sac in which the foetus develops.
Angiosperms	Flowering plants that bear flowers of which the seeds become a fruit.
Arachnids	A class, Arthropods, that has eight legs.
Arthropods	Invertebrates with jointed legs
Atmosphere	A layer of gases around the earth
Autotrophic	Green plants that can photosynthesise and produce their own food.
Biodiversity	The variety of different living organisms that are found in an area.
Biosphere	The part of the earth in which all life occurs.
Biotic component	The living component or part of the biosphere
Cold-blooded	An animal's body takes on the same temperature as that of their environment.
Contra-ceptives	Mediums used to prevent pregnancy.
Cross-pollination	The pollen of the ripe anthers fall onto the stigma of another flower of the same kind.
Crustacea	A class, Arthropods, of animals with ten legs.
Dicotyledons	Angiosperms of which the seeds have two lobes.



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Ecosystem	A natural environment with all the biotic and abiotic components and the interaction between these components
Egg cell	The female sex cell
Embryo	Forms when a male sex cell and a female sex cell fuse.
Embryo (human)	The zygote develops into an embryo.
Endoskeleton	Skeleton on the inside of the animal
Endosperm	The starch-rich food in the ovule that is used by the embryo to develop.
Excretion	The excretion of waste products that are produced by the bodies of living organisms.
Exoskeleton	Skeleton on the outside of an animal's body.
Fallopian tubes	These tubes transport the released egg cell or ovum from the ovary to the uterus.
Fertilisation (plant)	The fusion of the male sex cells, which have the pollen grain, with the female sex cells called ovules.
Fertilisation (human/animal)	Takes place when the cell nucleus of a sperm cell fuses with the cell nucleus of an egg cell.
Foetus	After two months of development, all of the organs of the embryo have developed and it is now called a foetus.
Fruit	A fertilised ovule
Gymnosperms	Plants with naked or uncovered seeds like pine trees.
Habitat	The natural environment in which a living organism is found.



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Heterotrophic	Animals that cannot produce their own food and are dependent on plants or other animals for food.
Hibernate	Animals sleep during the winter months to avoid the cold or dry weather.
Hydrosphere	All water in different forms on earth
Implantation	When the embryo attaches to the blood rich wall of the uterus.
Insecta	A class, Arthropods, of animals with six legs.
Internodes	The part between two nodes on a stem
Invertebrates	Animals without a spine
Lithosphere	The hard outer layer of earth
Menstrual cycle	One egg cell ripens every 28 days in a woman. If fertilisation of the egg cell does not occur, the blood layer tears away from the uterus wall and is excreted through the vagina.
Migrate	Animals like butterflies move away to warmer parts during the cold months in order to survive the winter.
Mollusca	Animals that have soft bodies with hydrostatic skeletons.
Mono-cotyledons	Angiosperms of which the seeds have only one lobe.
Nodes	The obvious thickened parts on a stem.
Ovaries	Female sex glands that produce egg cells.
Oviparous	Animals that lay eggs.
Ovoviviparous	Eggs hatch inside the body. It looks like an animal gives birth.
Ovulation	The release of an egg cell by the ovaries.



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Penis	Male sex organ that places the sperm in the vagina.
Petals	The bright-coloured flower leaves
Photosynthesis	Process whereby green plants produce food using sunlight, H <sub>2</sub> O and CO <sub>2</sub> .
Pistil	The female part of the flower that consists of the stigma, style and ovule.
Placenta	The place on the uterus wall where the embryo implants.
Pollination	The transfer of pollen from ripe anthers to the ripe stigma of the same flower (self-pollination) or to another flower of the same kind (cross-pollination).
Puberty	The process of physical changes during which a child's body changes into a mature adult body which is capable of sexual reproduction.
Race	A group of people that belongs together on the grounds of, for example, differences in body structure, culture, genetics and language.
Reproduction	The process through which living organisms produce individuals of the same kind.
Respiration	The process during which energy is produced from food and oxygen by living organisms.
Seed	A completely developed ripe ovule.
Self-pollination	The pollen of the ripe anthers falls onto the stigma of the same flower.
Semen	Fluid that is added to sperm by the male glands.
Sepals	The green leaves at the base of the flower
Sexual reproduction	Takes place when a male sex cell fuses with a female sex cell to form a seed.
Simple leaves	The leaf is not subdivided.



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Species	A group of living organisms that can cross-breed (produce young) and of which the offspring (young) are fertile.
Sperm	The male sex cell
Sperm ducts	All tubes that transport sperm in the male body.
Spermatophytes	Plants that form seeds.
Spores	The unfertilised cells from which ferns grow.
Stamen	The male part of the flower
Taproot system	A thick main root that grows out of the base of the stem straight down into the soil.
Testes	The male reproductive gland that produces sperm.
Umbilical cord	The blood vessels that run from the placenta to the foetus through which the foetus obtains nutrients and oxygen and excretes waste products.
Urethra	The tube from the bladder to the outside of the body through which urine and sperm exits the body.
Uterus or womb	The part of the female reproductive system in which the foetus develops.
Vagina (as reproductive organ)	The part of the female reproductive system that receives the penis, semen and sperm. Serves as birth canal and excretes menstrual blood.
Variation	The differences between individuals of the same species
Vertebrates	Vertebrate animals have a spine that is built up of individual vertebrae.
Viviparous	Animals that give birth to live young - the foetus grows in the uterus.
Warm-blooded	An animal with a constant body temperature that does not change with the environment's temperature.
Zygote	When the sperm cell and the egg cell fuse a single new cell forms.