



# TERM 1: LIFE AND LIVING

## Glossary

Word/term	Explanation
Scavengers	Carnivores that eat animals that are already dead.
Algae	A microorganism or macroorganism; certain algae can photosynthesise.
Anabolic	Constructive/build up
Bacteria	Single-celled microorganisms found mainly in the shape of a sphere, rod or spiral.
Bates mimicry	Harmless animal imitates a poisonous or bad tasting animal for protection.
Population	A group of individuals of the same species within a community.
Biodiversity	The variety of life found in one ecosystem/habitat.
Biosphere	All the ecosystems on earth
Chlorophyll	Pigment in green plants that allows plants to absorb light energy from the sun and convert it to chemical energy.
Cholera	Serious infectious disease
Detritivores	Scavengers that feed on the remains/waste of plants and animals.
Diarrhoea	Constant excrement of watery faeces
Ecology	Study of the interaction between different organisms with their physical and chemical environment.
Ecosystems	Place where living organisms interact with each other and their non-living environment.
Photosynthesis	Chemical process whereby green plants produce food (glucose) through chemical processes.
Gaseous exchange	Releasing and absorbing gases



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Community	All living things in one habitat.
Glucose	A simple form of sugar
Habitat	The area where plants and animals live.
Herbivores	Primary consumers - food consists of plants only.
Hydrophytes	Plants that live in watery environments.
Insectivores	Predators that eat mainly insects.
Camouflage	An animal's ability to blend into its environment.
Carnivores	Secondary and tertiary consumers - meat eating animals.
Catabolic	Destructive/break down
Commensalism	A symbiotic relationship where one party benefits, while the other party does not benefit, nor is it disadvantaged.
Mimicry	The phenomenon whereby an animal's appearance makes it look like another animal or object.
Müllerian mimicry	Two poisonous or bad tasting animals imitate each other.
Mutualism	A symbiotic relationship where both parties benefit from the relationship.
Omnivores	Animals that eat both plants and meat.
Decomposers	Microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) which decompose the remains of dead plant and animal matter.
Automimicry	Animals of the same species imitate each other.
Autotrophs	Organisms with the ability to produce their own food.
Parasites	Organisms or plants that live on living organic tissue, to the detriment of the host.



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Parasitism	A symbiotic relationship where one party benefits, while the other party is disadvantaged.
Predators	Carnivores that hunt to obtain their food.
Protozoa	Single-celled organisms that can be harmful.
Respiration	Process whereby energy is released from food through chemical reactions.
Saprophytes	Plants that live on dead organic tissue.
Symbiosis	Interdependency between organisms.
Fungi	Single-celled or multi-celled organisms that have the properties of plants, but do not contain chlorophyll.
Trophic level	Position that an organism holds in the food chain.
Virus	A type of parasite
Food web	A number of interlinked food chains.
Xerophytes	Plants that are able to live in dry areas of the country.