

Key word	Definition
adaptation	Characteristic that helps an organism to survive in its environment.
chromosome	Long strand of DNA, which contains many genes.
competition	Competing with other organisms for resources.
continuous variation	Characteristic that can take any value within a range of values.
discontinuous variation	Characteristic that can only be a certain value.
DNA	Chemical that contains all the information needed to make an organism.
evolution	Development of a species over time
extinct	When no more individuals of a species are left anywhere in the world.
fossil	The remains of plants and animals that have turned to stone.
gene	Section of DNA that contains the information for a characteristic.
gene bank	A store of genetic samples, used for research and to try to prevent extinction.
interdependence	The way in which living organisms depend on each other to survive, grow, and reproduce.
natural selection	Process by which the organisms with the characteristics that are most suited to the environment survive and reproduce, passing on their genes.
species	Organisms that have lots of characteristics in common, and can mate to produce fertile offspring.
variation	Differences in characteristics within a species.