

FOSS Structures of Life Module

Glossary

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adaptation any structure or behavior of an organism that allows it to survive in its environment (SRB, IG)

adult a mature plant (IG)

antenna (plural **antennae**) the thin feeler on the head of an animal like a crayfish, an isopod, or an insect (SRB, IG)

appendage legs and mouth parts (IG)

aquatic referring to water (SRB)

arch one of the three basic patterns fingerprints can be sorted into; these fingerprints are characterized by lines that start on one side of the print, rise, fall, and exit on the opposite side of the print (IG)

articulated jointed or joined in sections (IG)

ball-and-socket joint a place where the rounded end of one bone fits into the cup of another bone. Ball-and-socket joints allow movement in two directions, in addition to rotation; the most versatile joints in the human body (IG)

behavior the actions of an animal in response to its environment (SRB, IG)

beneficial good or advantageous (SRB)

biologist a scientist who studies living organisms (SRB)

bone living tissue organized into a system called a skeleton that grows and changes shape as people grow (IG)

camouflage an adaptation that allows an organism to blend into its environment (SRB)

carapace a hard outer shell that covers the main part of the body of an animal (SRB, IG)

carnivore an animal that eats only animals (SRB, IG)

cartilage the smooth, flexible material that connects some bones and gives shape to some body parts (SRB)

characteristic a trait often inherited from a parent. In relation to bones, the shape, size, and orientation of a bone (IG)

chromosome a structure that carries genes (SRB)

chrysalis the hard-shelled pupa of a moth or butterfly (SRB)

compete to rely on or need the same resource as another organism (IG)

contract to become smaller or shorter in length (SRB, IG)

cotyledon the plant structure that provides the germinated seed with food (SRB, IG)

crayfish a freshwater animal that has a hard shell and prominent pincers (IG)

crustacean a class of mostly aquatic animals with hard, flexible shells (SRB, IG)

detrimental harmful or bad (SRB)

disperse to spread out or move away from (IG)

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) a material that carries the genetic messages of heredity (SRB)

dormant inactive or resting (SRB, IG)

egg the first stage in an animal's life cycle (SRB)

elodea a kind of aquatic plant that crayfish eat (IG)

embryo the undeveloped plant within a seed (SRB, IG)

endanger to be at risk of becoming extinct (SRB)

energy the fuel in a food chain (IG)

engineer someone who works to solve a problem (IG)

environment everything that surrounds and influences an organism (SRB, IG)

estimate to figure out about how many; not an exact amount (IG)

evidence data used to support claims. Evidence is based on observations and scientific data. (SRB)

exoskeleton any hard outer covering that protects or supports the body of an animal (SRB)

female in crayfish, ones that have an egg pore and longer swimmerets (IG)

fibrous root system with a large mass of small, stringlike roots where no one root is more prominent than the others (IG)

fingerprint the ridges in your skin at the tip of your fingers. Arches, loops, and whorls are fingerprint patterns. (SRB, IG)

flower a plant structure that grows into fruit (SRB, IG)

food chain a description of the feeding relationships between all the organisms in an environment (SRB, IG)

fossil any remains, trace, or imprint of animal or plant life preserved in Earth's crust (SRB, IG)

fruit a structure of a plant in which seeds form (SRB, IG)

function an action that helps a plant or an animal survive (SRB, IG)

gastropod the family of snails (SRB)

gene a message carried by a chromosome (SRB)

generation a group of organisms born and living at the same time (SRB)

genetics the study of how living things pass traits to their offspring (SRB)

genus a subdivision in the classification of organisms. In the scientific name of an organism, the genus name always starts with a capital letter and is italicized. (IG)

germination the onset of a seed's growth (IG)

gliding joint a place where two bones meet, allowing limited movement in two directions but not rotation (IG)

growth an increase in size and mass of an organism (IG)

habitat the place where an animal lives (IG)

herbivore an animal that eats only plants or algae (SRB, IG)

hibernate when animals sleep through the winter (SRB)

hinge joint a place where two bones meet, allowing movement in one direction; hinge joints can flex (close) and extend (open) (IG)

hydroponics the growing of plants in a water-based nutrient solution (IG)

inherit the passing of information from one generation to another (IG)

inherited trait a characteristic that is passed down from generation to generation (SRB)

invasive an organism that thrives in a new area but causes problems to the organisms in that ecosystem (SRB)

joint a place where two bones come together (SRB, IG)

leaf (plural **leaves**) a plant structure that is usually green and makes food from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide (SRB, IG)

life cycle the sequence of changes or stages an organism goes through as it grows and develops (SRB, IG)

ligament tissue that connects bone to bone (SRB)

living alive (IG)

loop one of the three basic patterns fingerprints can be sorted into; these fingerprints are characterized by lines that start at one side of the print, rise, and then turn around and exit on the same side (IG)

male in crayfish, ones that have bigger pincers and narrower tails (IG)

mast year a year when trees produce a lot of seeds (SRB)

mature fully developed (SRB)

migrate when animals move from places with cold weather to places with warm weather (SRB)

modify to change (IG)

molt to shed an outer shell in order to grow (SRB, IG)

movement action performed by muscles in the body; one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system (IG)

muscle tissue that can contract and produce movement (SRB, IG)

nutrient a material needed by a living organism to help it grow and develop (SRB, IG)

observe to watch for changes (IG)

offspring a new plant or animal produced by a parent (SRB, IG)

omnivore an animal that eats both animals and plants (SRB, IG)

opposable thumb finger which enables the ability to touch fingertips to thumb and to grip and hold objects firmly; one of the most important features of the human body (IG)

organism any living thing (SRB, IG)

paleontologist a scientist who studies fossils (SRB)

parent an organism that has produced offspring (SRB)

parent plant original or larger plant (IG)

pattern a repeating and recognizable feature; most fingerprints fall into three basic patterns (IG)

petrify to change into stone over a long period of time (SRB)

physical model a hands-on representation used to aid learning and problem solving (IG)

pincer an animal's claw used for grasping (SRB, IG)

population all organisms of one kind that are living together (SRB, IG)

predator an animal that hunts and catches other animals for food (SRB, IG)

predict to estimate a future event based on data or experience (IG)

prey an animal eaten by another animal (SRB, IG)

proboscis a long, strawlike mouth (SRB)

property a characteristic of or something you can observe (color, texture, smell) about an object (IG)

protect to keep safe (SRB, IG)

protection one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system (IG)

protective coloration an adaptation; camouflage (IG)

pupa the stage of an insect's life cycle between the larva and the adult stages (SRB)

reproduce to have offspring (SRB, IG)

riparian along a river or stream (SRB)

root the part of a plant that grows underground and brings water and nutrients into the plant (SRB, IG)

sediment pieces of weathered rock such as sand, deposited by wind, water, and ice (SRB)

sedimentary rock a rock that forms when layers of sediments get stuck together (SRB)

seed the structure in a fruit that holds the undeveloped plant, or embryo (SRB, IG)

seed coat the thin white shell or outer covering that comes off the seed (IG)

seedling a young plant that grows from a seed (IG)

shoot the above-ground part of the plant, which consists of stems, branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit (IG)

skeletal muscle muscle that typically attaches to two different bones with tendons; there are over 650 in the human body (IG)

skeletal system the system of bones in the human body which provide support, protection, and movement (IG)

skeleton the hard inner framework of bones inside an animal that provides shape, support, and protection (IG)

skull the hollow case of the head made up of fused flat bones and moveable jaw bones; surrounds and protects the brain, inner ears, and eyes (IG)

species a specific group of organisms. In the scientific name of an organism, the species name always starts with a lowercase letter and is italicized. (IG)

stable system a system in which there are enough of each type of organisms for the populations to survive so the food chain can continue for several years (IG)

stem any stalk supporting leaves, flowers, or fruit (SRB, IG)

structure any identifiable part of an organism (SRB, IG)

support one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system (IG)

survive to stay alive (SRB, IG)

sustain to maintain, keep up, or keep on going (IG)

sustainable describing a food chain in which the population size of the organisms that are eating must be smaller than the population size of the organisms getting eaten (IG)

swimmeret a small, soft leg under the tail of a crayfish (SRB, IG)

system an interconnected network (IG)

taproot system where smaller roots branch out from the large main roots (IG)

tendon ropelike tissue that connects muscle to bone (SRB, IG)

terrestrial referring to land (SRB)

territory the part of an animal's habitat that it defends against others (IG)

thrive to grow fast and stay healthy (SRB)

tissue the different kinds of body-building materials, such as muscle, tendon, ligament, bone, and fat. All your organs, such as your heart and lungs, are made out of different kinds of tissues. (IG)

torso the main part of the body, including shoulders, chest, abdomen, and hips (IG)

trait a characteristic; how a structure or feature looks for an individual or one kind of animal (IG)

variation a difference (IG)

whorl one of the three basic patterns fingerprints can be sorted into; these fingerprints are characterized by lines that go in circles and all lines come back to the place where they started (IG)