

Key term	Definition
allele	Different forms of a gene.
biodiversity	A measure of the variety of all the different species of organisms on earth or within a particular ecosystem.
captive breeding	Breeding animals in human-controlled environments.
chromosome(s)	Thread-like structure containing tightly coiled DNA. It contains many genes.
competition	When two or more living things struggle against each other to get the same resource.
conservation	Protecting a natural environment, to ensure that habitats are not lost.
DNA	A molecule found in the nucleus of cells that contains genetic information.
dominant (allele)	A dominant allele will always be expressed if it is present.
endangered species	A species with only small numbers of organisms left in the world.
evolution	Theory that the animal and plant species living today descended from species that existed in the past.
extinct	When no more individuals of a species remain anywhere in the world.
fossil	The remains or traces of plants and animals that have turned to stone.
gene	A section of DNA that determines an inherited characteristic.
gene bank	A store of genetic samples, used for research and to try to prevent extinction.
genetic modification	A technique in which scientists insert foreign genes into organisms to change their characteristics.
inherited characteristic(s)	Features that are passed from parents to their offspring.
mutation	Change to DNA that can cause disease.
natural selection	Process by which species change over time in response to environmental changes and competition for resources. The organisms with the characteristics that are most suited to the environment survive and reproduce, passing on their genes.

peer review	The evaluation of a scientist's work by another scientist.
population	Group of organisms of the same kind living in the same place.
Punnett square	A diagram used to show the possible combinations of alleles inherited from the parents.
recessive	A recessive allele will only be expressed if two copies are present.