

Glossary

abdomen Rear body section of an insect. Insects have three body sections. They have a head. They have a middle part called a thorax. They have a rear part called the abdomen.

amphibian An animal that spends part of its life in water and part on land. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are amphibians.

antenna A “feeler” on an insect’s head. Insects have two feelers. Feelers sense smells and touch.

anther The male flower part that makes pollen. The anther is the hat-shaped part at the tip of a stamen.

asexual reproduction Reproduction with only one parent. Plants can reproduce with roots, stems, or leaves. This kind of reproduction needs only one plant.

carbon dioxide A gas used by plants to make food. Carbon dioxide gas is present in air. The food that plants make is sugar.

carnivore A meat-eater. Adult frogs are carnivores.

chlorophyll A chemical that captures light energy so that plants can make food. Chlorophyll is a pigment. It gives plants their green color.

cocoon The case that surrounds and protects a pupa. An insect larva makes a cocoon around itself. Then it is a pupa.

cotyledon The part of a seed that provides food for the baby plant. A cotyledon is sometimes called a seed leaf. Some seeds have one cotyledon. Some seeds have two cotyledons. Seeds with one cotyledon are called monocots. Corn is a monocot. Seeds with two cotyledons are called dicots. Beans and peanuts are dicots.

decomposer A living thing that breaks down dead or decaying things for food. Decomposers are nature’s “recyclers.” They break down dead things so that the matter in them can be used again.

egg Made by the ovary and fertilized by a pollen grain. Eggs become seeds.

embryo The baby plant inside a seed. The embryo has two tiny leaves and the beginnings of a root.

fruit The ripened ovary of a flowering plant with seeds inside. The fruit forms after the flower is pollinated. Some plants are bred to make seedless fruit. Seedless fruit does not reproduce.

fungus A kind of decomposer. Fungi have many cells. Bacteria are decomposers, too. But bacteria have only one cell.

germinate When the embryo inside a seed starts to sprout and grow. Seeds will germinate when it is warm enough. Seeds also need enough water to germinate.

gills Body parts for breathing oxygen in water. Tadpoles live in water and breathe with gills.

larva The young form of an animal that changes as it becomes an adult. A tadpole is a kind of larva. The larva of an insect is a feeding stage. It eats and grows a lot. Then it surrounds itself with the cocoon.

leaf The plant part that makes food for the plant. The leaf uses energy from the sun to make sugar. The sugar is used by the plant to grow and produce fruit. Some plants, like ivy, can reproduce by their leaves.

Glossary (continued)

metamorphosis Change in shape during growth and development. Frogs go through metamorphosis. Insects have four stages of metamorphosis. They are the egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

mold A kind of fungus. Other kinds of fungi are mushrooms and yeast.

ovary The female flower part that makes eggs. The ovary is the bulging part of the pistil.

petal Protects male and female flower parts and attracts insects. Petals vary in color, size, and shape.

photosynthesis A chemical reaction in plants that makes food for the plant. Light energy, water, carbon dioxide, and chlorophyll are used to make the food. Molds cannot carry out photosynthesis. They do not have chlorophyll like plants do.

pistil The female flower part that is made of the ovary and stigma. The pistil is in the center of the flower.

pollen Made by the anther. Flowers can make thousands of pollen grains.

pollination Movement of pollen from a male anther to a female stigma of a flower. Insects, wind, and animals with fur help pollinate flowers.

predator An animal that eats other live animals. Adult frogs are predators.

prey A live animal eaten by other animals. Crickets are prey for frogs.

pupa An insect in a non-feeding stage that is surrounded by a cocoon. The pupa appears quiet. But a lot of changes are taking place inside the cocoon. The insect is growing wings, legs, and antennae. It is turning into an adult insect.

root The plant part that takes in water and minerals from the soil. Some plants, like carrots and radishes, can reproduce by their roots.

seed The plant part that contains a baby plant and its food source. Seeds are found inside fruit.

seed coat The covering of a seed that protects the seed. The seed coat can be thick and tough. It protects the seed until the seed can sprout.

sepal Protects the flower bud. The sepals are closed tight around the bud. They open, and the flower blooms.

spore Made by molds when they reproduce. Spores grow into new molds.

spore case The part of a mold that produces spores. A spore case can produce millions of spores.

stamen The male flower part that includes the anther. A flower has many stamens.

stem The plant part that supports the leaves. Some plants, like sugar cane, can reproduce by their stems.

stigma The female flower part where pollen lands. The stigma sticks up so that pollen can land on it.

tadpole The larva of a frog. A frog tadpole looks like a small fish. It has a head. It has a middle part called a thorax.

vegetable Plant part you can eat. A vegetable may be a fruit, a root, a stem, or a leaf. A tomato is a fruit. Carrots are roots. Celery is a stem. Lettuce is a leaf.