

aerobic	related to the presence of oxygen; aerobic respiration uses oxygen
algae	simple plants, usually aquatic, including single-celled giants such as the seaweed kelp; kelp has no true vascular system
amino acids	organic compounds each containing an amino group (NH <sub>2</sub> ) and a carboxyl group (COOH); they are the building blocks of proteins; there are approximately 20 essential amino acids, depending upon the species
anaerobic	without oxygen; anaerobic respiration needs no oxygen
angiosperm	a flowering plant; all angiosperms produce seeds enclosed in ovaries, usually in a flower

anoxic	without oxygen; an anoxic environment has no available oxygen
archaea (archaeobacteria)	procaryotic cells that are not bacteria and thus have different cellular biochemistry; many are called 'extremophiles' and live in extreme environments
autotroph	an organism capable of making its own food from inorganic materials like plants
bacteria	belongs to a large group of unicellular procaryotic organisms, usually between 0.5 and 5 micrometres in size; they are often classified by their shape (spherical, rod or spiral); some types exist in pairs, chains or clusters; bacteria have cell walls made of different biochemicals to those found in plants or archaea
binomial system	the system of naming organisms using two names, the genus name followed by the species name eg homo sapiens

biochemical

a chemical found in or associated with living things

cell wall

the containing wall outside the cell membrane and is found in plants and fungi; it provides the support and contains cellulose, pectin and lignin

chlorophyll

the green pigment in plants associated with the entrapment of sunlight in photosynthesis

class

the level of classification below phylum and above order; mammals are on of the five classes of vertebrates

classification

the process of placing things into groups on the basis of named criteria

colonial organisms

consist of loose aggregations of slightly specialised cells that re-aggregate if disturbed

cosmos

the physical universe; it is considered an ordered whole

culture

shared habits, beliefs and behaviours of a group of people, passed on from generation-to-generation; some cultures have beliefs about the origin of life that are in conflict with those proposed by science

cyanobacteria

until recently referred to as blue-green algae; the group of procaryote cells that carries out photosynthesis and represents one of the most primitive groups of living things; it belongs to bacteria and many types are poisonous if ingested

decomposers

organisms such as fungi and some bacteria that bring about the recycling of nutrients through decay