

mid-ocean ridge

an undersea mountain range that runs down the Pacific and Atlantic oceans (and others) and at which the upwelling of lava produces spreading zones during continental drift

mitosis

cell division that results in two identical daughter cells; is important for growth, repair and asexual reproduction

monotreme

a mammal that reproduces by eggs, eg. platypus and echidna

native species

species that occur naturally in particular locations or countries as opposed to feral species

nectar feeder

an animal that relies mainly on nectar for food and often carries out pollination for the flowers it visits

palaeontology

the study of fossils and associated life forms existing in earlier geological periods

parthenogenesis

a form of asexual reproduction in females in which fertilisation is not necessary; some lizards, aphids and rotifers do this

pollination

the transfer of pollen (male gamete of a flower) from the anther to the stigma

primitive

the early history of life or the world

radiometric dating

the use of the rate of radioactive decay to determine the approximate date when rocks were formed

rainforest

an ecosystem dominated by dense canopy trees, including vines and epiphytes, with little undergrowth in dense shade, often supported by high humidity and rainfall

reproductive adaptation

a special feature, behaviour, or function that assists reproduction

sexual reproduction

reproduction that results from the fertilisation of a male and female gamete and results in genetically varied offspring

species

the level of greatest similarity in classification; a group of organisms that share a common gene pool through interbreeding and produces fertile offspring

spreading zones

the regions where the continental plates are formed and spread out

technology

applied science and engineering or its practice

terrestrial

living or growing on land, as opposed to aquatic

timeline

a diagram representing a sequence of events linked by time

wind pollination

pollination resulting from wind blowing pollen, often onto a large or feathery stigma

zygote

the initial cell formed as a result of fertilisation