

fertilisation

the union of sperm and ovum to form the first cell of a new organism

flora

a collective group of plants, related to a given area or period

fossil

any remains, impression or trace of an organism

gongamopteris

a distinctive plant from the Permian age whose fossil remains have been found in Gondwana

geological time

the period of time covering the development of the Earth, often divided into ages, eras and periods

global climate change

changes in the climate of the whole Earth, eg. the ice age

global warming

changes in the climate of the Earth that relate to an increase in average temperature; in the modern context, the rapid changes in climate occurring because of greenhouse gasses

glossopteris

a distinctive plant from the Permian age whose fossil remains have been found in Gondwana

Gondwana

the great southern landmass that broke up around 100 million years ago to form Africa, Antarctica, South America, India and Australia

grassland

a region in which the main vegetation is long-living grasses rather than trees and shrubs; large areas of Australia were once eucalypt forests are now grassland due to hotter climates

grazing	to feed on growing plants; eg. kangaroos are grazing animals
Huxley-Wilberforce debate	refers to the debate between supporters of Darwin's theory of evolution and creationists (supporters of Bishop Wilberforce)
insect	an animal with an exoskeleton, three main body parts and three pairs of legs
insect/bird/mammal pollination	is the transfer of pollen from the anther to the stigma by insects, birds or mammals
internal fertilisation	the union of sperm and ovum that occurs inside the female body

mammal

the class of vertebrates that have fur or hair and feed their young milk

marsupial

a mammal that produces immature young that complete their development attached to a nipple within a pouch eg. kangaroo, koala, possum

mechanism

the way something is done or works

megafauna

large possums, kangaroos, reptiles, wombats and others that once lived in Australia and became extinct up to 20 000 years ago

meiosis

a type of cell division that results in four unique cells and contains half the normal number of chromosomes; this type of cell division is essential for gamete production and sexual reproduction