

deep-sea bacteria	micro-organisms that belong to the archaea and live in the hydrothermal vents of deep undersea volcanoes
dichotomous key	a classificatory device written up to assist in the identification of organisms where two alternative characteristics are offered up and repeated over numerous sequential steps
diversity	variety or level of difference between things; biodiverse more specifically refers to the range of types of plants and animals
DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)	the large organic molecule responsible for storing hereditary information in living things and found on chromosomes
domain	the three major groupings of living things (eucarya, archaea and bacteria)

<p>electron microscope</p>	<p>a microscope that produces highly magnified and resolved images because it works by firing electrons through a very thin film of material and produces an elecromicrograph</p>
<p>eubacteria</p>	<p>the old name for bacteria</p>
<p>eucaryotic cell</p>	<p>a cell that contains a nucleus and several types of organelle</p>
<p>evolution</p>	<p>the continual process of change and development of organisms, suiting them to their constantly changing environments</p>
<p>extant species</p>	<p>a species that is still in existence</p>

extinct	no longer in existence; the term is often used when the organism disappears from one of its haunts
fossil	any remain, impression or trace of an organism
genus	a major subdivision of a family that consists of one or more closely related species
geology	the science that studies rocks, minerals and the earth
heterotroph	an organism that ingests organic material as a source of food (unlike autotrophs that make their own food from inorganic materials)

hierarchical system

the system of classifying organisms in graded order from large groups with great diversity to smaller groups with greater similarity

hypothesis

a proposition that is intended to explain a group of phenomena

insect

an animal with an exoskeleton, three main body parts and three pairs of legs

kingdom

a major group of living things; the level above phylum and below domain

mammal

a class of vertebrates that have fur and hair and feed their young milk; all have diaphragms and, excepting monotremes, bear live young