

flora

plants of a given area
or period

grassland

a region in which the
main vegetation is
long-lived grasses

graze

to feed on growing
plants

habitat

the environment where an
organism lives and is
characterised by its biotic
and abiotic properties

herbivore

an animal that feeds
on plants

heterotroph

an organism that relies on ingesting other organic material as a source of food

host

an organism upon which a parasite feeds

mitochondria

cell organelles responsible for aerobic respiration and the release of energy

mutualism

the relationship between organisms that live in close association and help each other

native species

flora or fauna that occur naturally in a particular location

nitrogen-fixing
bacteria

micro-organisms present in the soil or in plant roots that change nitrogen gases from the atmosphere into solid nitrogen compounds that plants can use in the soil

parasitism

the relationship in which an organism obtains nutrients, shelter or other requirements from another (the host) by living on or within it

photosynthesis

the process by which plants make their own food using carbon dioxide, water and sunlight, in the presence of chlorophyll

predator

an animal that preys on other animals for food

prey

an animal that is killed and eaten by another

producer

an organism that uses non-living materials, such as carbon dioxide, water and minerals, and an energy source, such as sunlight, to make its own nutrients

quadrat

each of a number of small areas of habitat, typically of one square metre, selected at random to act as samples for assessing the local distribution of plants or animals

rainforest

a region dominated by dense canopy trees, often with vines and epiphytes, with little undergrowth, densely shaded and supported by high humidity and rainfall

respiration

the process by which living organisms obtain energy, using glucose and oxygen and producing carbon dioxide and water

sclerophyll plants

plants with tough leaves that restrict water loss

simulation

a theoretical construction or model used to mimic real events

species

a distinct group of organism that can interbreed and produce fertile offspring

symbiosis

a general term for organisms that live with other organisms in a close association

tagging

any method of marking a species in order to estimate population distribution, size or movements

terrestrial

living or growing on land

transect

a straight line that cuts across the area being studied, and along which the organisms may be counted and described

trophic

a term related to feeding
