

Glossary

A **abdomen:** the section of the body of an arthropod, directly behind the thorax

adaptation: a special physical or behavioral characteristic of a species or individual that helps it better survive in its habitat

adult: having attained full size and strength

aerate: to cause air to circulate through

agriculture: the science, art and business of raising crops and livestock; farming

alive: having life; being alive, not dead

amphibian: a cold-blooded vertebrate that typically lives in an aquatic habitat, breathes with gills when young and then with lungs and through moist glandular skin as an adult

angler: a person who catches fish with a hook and line; another word for a fisherman

annelid: segmented worm

antennae: sensory organs attached to the heads of arthropods

aquatic: aquatic plants and animals are those that live in or around water

arachnid: an arthropod with four pairs of segmented legs and a body divided into two regions; includes spiders, ticks and scorpions

arthropod: an invertebrate animal that is made up of segments covered by an exoskeleton such as insects, spiders and crustaceans

autumn: fall

backbone: the spine

B **bait:** food, or some substitute, used as a lure in fishing, trapping, etc.

bark: the outer most layer of a tree, shrub or other woody plant that acts as a protective barrier

beak: also called "bill," part of the mouth of a bird; beaks are adapted to helping birds eat

bird: a warm-blooded vertebrate that has wings as modified forelimbs, is covered in feathers, and lays eggs; although typically wings are used for flight, not all birds can fly

branch: an above-ground part of a tree that grows out away from the trunk

C **camouflage:** adaptations of color or shape that help a living thing "hide" or blend in with its surroundings making it more difficult to see

canopy: the layer formed by the leaves and branches of the forest's tallest trees

carnivore: an animal that eats other animals

caruncle: bumpy growth on the neck and throat, often brightly colored; can be found on turkeys and vultures

cast: to throw out a fishing line

castings: small, round odorless pellets that are the end-products of the breakdown of organic matter by earthworms

cephalothorax: the front part of the body in certain arachnids; the head and thorax combined into one section

characteristic: a special quality or feature that helps to identify a person or thing

chrysalis: the hard-shelled pupa of a moth or butterfly

class: a division or grouping used in the classification of organisms

clutch: the group of eggs laid by a female bird during one nesting

colony: a group of organisms of the same kind living or growing together; i.e. ant colony

community: in ecology, all the organisms that live together and interact within an ecosystem

component: a part of something

conclusion: final statement summarizing the results in a scientific experiment or investigation

consumer: an organism that cannot produce its own food, so it must eat other organisms

D **data (plural of datum):** factual information, measurements or statistics analyzed in order to reach conclusions in a scientific experiment or investigation

decomposer: an organism that feeds on dead material, breaking down the organic material so it may be used again; includes large and microscopic organisms

den: a wild animal's shelter

describe: to tell or depict in written or spoken words

diet: the foods eaten by a particular organism

digest: to convert food into simpler chemical compounds that can be absorbed by the body

dispersal: the process or result of the spreading or scattering of living things from one place to another

diurnal: refers to animals most active during the day

domesticated: to train or breed an animal or a plant to live in a human environment and be of use to humans

dormant: plants and animals that are temporarily inactive

duff: decaying leaves and branches covering a forest floor

E **earth:** the third planet from the sun

ecological community: a group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a specific region under relatively similar environmental conditions

ecosystem: an ecological community along with the interrelated physical and chemical components of the environment, functioning as a unit

environment: everything surrounding an organism that influences its existence, including physical, biological, and all other factors

exoskeleton: the hard covering on the outside of many invertebrates that protects and supports the soft internal organs

F **fear:** a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc.

feather: a light, flat growth that forms the distinctive outer covering, or plumage, on birds

feature: a characteristic or prominent part of something

feeling: a sentiment, attitude, or opinion

field study plot: an area set aside for making observations over time

fin: a membranous, winglike, or paddlelike organ attached to fishes and other aquatic animals, used for propulsion, steering, or balancing

first impression: first thought or feeling

fish: a cold-blooded aquatic vertebrate characterized by fins and scales that uses gills to breathe and reproduces by laying eggs

food: material, usually from a plant or animal, that contains or consists of essential body nutrients

food chain: the transfer of food energy from one organism to another; i.e. sunlight provides energy for grass; grass is eaten by a rabbit; rabbit is eaten by a fox

food energy: the amount of energy in food that is available through digestion

food web: the complex, interrelated food chains in an ecological community

footprint: the mark made by an animal's foot, also called a track

fruit: the ripened part of a plant containing the seeds and developed from a flower

fungus (fungi): an organisms that lives by decomposing and absorbing the organic material in which it grows; i.e. mushrooms

funnel web: a funnel-shaped spider web

fur: the hairy coat on the skin of a mammal

G gall: an abnormal growth on plants; can be the result of an insect laying eggs

germinate: to begin to sprout or grow

gill: a respiratory organ used by fish and some animals that live in water to get oxygen

globe: a sphere showing a map of the earth

gobbler: adult male turkey

H habitat: a place where an organism finds the food, water, shelter, and space it needs, in the appropriate arrangement

harvest: the intentional gathering of plants, animals, and other natural resources for use

head: the uppermost or forwardmost part of the body of an animal

hen: adult female turkey or other poultry species

herbivore: an animal that eats only plants

hypothesis: an educated guess as to why something happens

I imagine: to form a mental image of something not actually present

insect: an arthropod with an exoskeleton, three body segments, and six legs; includes ants, butterflies, grasshoppers, bugs, beetles, etc.

invertebrate: an organism that does not have a backbone

J juvenile: an organism that has not yet reached its adult form, maturity, or size

K kelp: a large, brown, cold-water seaweed

L larva: a self-feeding, immature form of an animal

leaf: a usually flat, green structure on a plant where photosynthesis takes place

life cycle: the continuous sequence of changes an organism undergoes during its lifetime

line: a cord used or made for fishing

lobe: a rounded projection; i.e. an ear lobe or lobe on a leaf

M mammal: a warm-blooded vertebrate characterized by hair or fur that uses lungs to breathe; female mammals give birth to live young and are unique in their ability to produce milk to nurse their offspring

metamorphosis: an organism's change in form from one stage to the next, leading to the adult form

misunderstanding: failure to understand correctly; mistake as to meaning or intent

moist: moderately or slightly wet; damp

molt: to cast off or shed the feathers, skin, or the like, that will be replaced by new growth

N native: an organism that occurs naturally in an area or habitat

natural resource: raw material we use from the Earth, such as air, water, minerals, fossil fuels, plants, animals and others

nectar: a sweet liquid secreted by flowers of various plants, consumed by pollinators, such as hummingbirds and insects, and gathered by bees for making honey

needs: in the ecological sense, something required for an organism's survival

nest: a structure of twigs, grass, mud, etc. formed by an animal for the purposes related to rearing young

nocturnal: refers to animals most active during the night

non-native: plants or animals found in one place that originated from another

nut: a hard-shelled, one-seeded fruit (like an acorn) or a seed borne within a fruit having a hard shell (like a peanut)

nymph: the immature form of certain insects, usually resembling the adult form but smaller and lacking fully developed wings

O observation: something that is noted in the course of observing things

observe: to watch carefully

ocean: the vast body of saltwater that covers almost three-fourths of the earth's surface; often divided into five large oceans and smaller seas

omnivore: an animal that eats both plants and animals

orb web: a circular spider web

organism: a living thing

owl: a bird of prey with a large head and large forward-facing eyes, mostly nocturnal

owl pellet: the bundle of undigested parts of an owl's food that it regurgitates (or spits out); contains things such as bones, fur, and feathers

P pet: a domesticated or tamed animal that is kept as a companion

pheromone: a chemical that, when released by an animal, causes a particular behavior in other animals of the same species

photosynthesis: the process by which green plants manufacture simple sugars in the presence of sunlight, carbon dioxide and water

planet: a large celestial body revolving about a star

plant: a living organism that manufactures its own food through photosynthesis

poult: a baby turkey

predator: an animal that kills and eats other animals



preen: to smooth or clean feathers with the beak or bill

prey: an animal that is eaten by a predator

producer: organisms, typically green plants, which make their own food

pupa: the stage in metamorphosis between the larva and the adult

Q queen: the one female in an ant, bee, termite, or wasp colony that produces eggs

R reaction: action in response to some influence or event

recreation: any activity that people enjoy in their spare time

recycle: to take something that would otherwise be thrown away and manufacture a new product from it

reduce: to bring down to a smaller, size or amount; use less

represent: to stand or act in the place of, as a substitute does

reptile: a cold-blooded vertebrate characterized by skin covered in dry scales that uses lungs to breathe; most lay eggs while others give birth to live young

results: the outcome(s) of a scientific experiment or investigation

reuse: to use again

roost: the place where birds rest together

root: the part of the plant that grows below ground, stores food, absorbs water and minerals, and helps the plant remain stable

S safari: a journey or expedition for hunting, exploration, or investigation

saltwater: related to or consisting of water containing a significant concentration of salt; marine

scale: one of the thin, flat, hard plates forming the covering of certain animals

scat: the excrement or droppings of an animal; poop

school: a large number of fish feeding or migrating together

sea: see 'ocean'

seafood: marine fish, sea plants, shellfish and other ocean organisms consumed by humans

season: a period of the year characterized by particular weather conditions; i.e. winter, spring, summer, or fall

seaweed: any plant growing in the ocean

seed: the fertilized, matured egg of a flowering plant

segment: a clearly differentiated subdivision of an organism

shape: the external form of an object or organism

share: to use, participate in, enjoy, or receive jointly

sheet web: an irregular spider web woven in a single plane that looks like a flattened hammock

shelter: a structure that protects people or other animals from the environment

sign: a mark, smell, sound or indication that something was there

skeleton: all of the bones of an animal forming the framework of the body

snood: a long flap of skin over the beak of some birds

space: area



specialized: an organism adapted to a certain environment or conditions

species: a group of organisms composed of related individuals that resemble one another and are able to breed with each other, but cannot breed with individuals of another group

spinneret: tubular structure from which spiders secrete the silk threads used to form webs

sprout: young plant growth, such as a bud or shoot

stem: the part of the plant that supports a leaf, flower or fruit, transports fluids, stores nutrients and generates new living tissue for the plant

stride: the distance between two tracks made by the same foot

strut: a display by the male of some bird species, including turkeys, in which it puffs out its feathers, spreads out its tail, and drags its wings

sun: the largest star in the galaxy which all planets revolve around; provides earth with energy in the form of heat and light

survive: to remain alive

symbol: something that is a sign of, or that stands for, something else

T tackle: equipment for fishing

tadpole: the aquatic larva or immature form of frogs and toads

tail: the bottom, rear or hindmost part of the body of an animal

tame: changed from the wild state; domesticated

tangle web: a three-dimensional spider web



teeth: in reference to leaves, the small saw-like serrations along the edge of a leaf

temperature: measurement of the amount of heat a substance contains

terrestrial: an animal or plant that lives on or in the land

test: a procedure for evaluating a hypothesis in a scientific experiment or investigation

thorax: the portion of the body between the head and the abdomen

tom: adult male turkey

tool: a device used to complete a task

track: footprints or other marks left by an animal

trait: a distinguishing characteristic or quality

trash: materials or objects that are perceived as useless and are discarded

tree: a plant, usually 12 or more feet tall, with a permanently woody, single main stem or trunk

trowel: a small implement with a pointed, scoop-shaped blade used for digging

trunk: the main stem of a tree, as distinct from the branches and roots

U undecided: not having one's mind firmly made up

utensil: any instrument, vessel, or tool serving a useful purpose

V variety: a number of different types of things

vein: narrow, usually branching, tube found in both plants and animals that distributes nutrients throughout the organism; i.e. leaf vein or veins of an animal

venom: a poisonous fluid that some animals inject into the bodies of their prey

vertebrate: an animal with a backbone

W water: a chemical substance that can be found in a liquid, solid or gaseous state and is needed for all living things on earth

wattle: a flap of skin under the head of some birds, including turkeys

weave (re: spiders): the action of a spider using silk to create a patterned web by linking objects and silk strands together

web: the object which spiders spin or weave out of silk that is used as shelter or a tool for capturing prey; each web design is unique to the species.

wild: not tamed or domesticated; a wild animal provides for its own food, shelter, and other needs in an environment that serves as a suitable habitat

wildlife: undomesticated animals

wildlife scientist: a person who studies wildlife to learn how they live and interact with their environment

Capitalization of Animal Names

Capitalization of animal names in *Growing Up WILD* are based on scientific conventions rather than on grammatical rules.

English names make it easier for non-scientists to converse about animals; however, English names vary not only from country to country, but region to region. In *Growing Up WILD*, when referring to a particular species or kind of animal, the most widely-accepted English name is used and is capitalized. The English name referring to a group of animals is not capitalized. (i.e. Mule Deer vs. deer; Monarch Butterfly vs. butterfly; Piping Plover vs. shorebird) The exceptions to this are the animal names used as labels on Copy Me pages.