

## A

**Absorption:** This is the movement of food into the bloodstream.

**Amylase:** This is an enzyme. It is found in saliva. It breaks starch down into maltose.

**Antagonistic muscles:** A pair of skeletal muscles that work together. When one contracts the other relaxes, e.g. the biceps and triceps.

**Asexual reproduction:** Reproduction that does not involve gametes.

**Assimilation:** This is the using of the food by the cells of the body after absorption.

---

## B

**Benedict's solution:** This is used to test for a reducing sugar e.g. glucose. If a reducing sugar is present it turns brick red after being heated in a boiling water bath.

**Breathing:** This is a physical process of taking in oxygen and breathing back out carbon dioxide.

---

## C

**Carnivore:** An animal that only eats other animals.

**Carpel:** The female part of the flowering plant. It is made up of the stigma, style and ovary.

**Catalyst:** A chemical that speeds up or slows down chemical reactions.

**Cell wall:** Structure found outside the cell membrane in plant cells. Cell walls are absent in animal cells.

**Chlorophyll:** The green pigment found in the chloroplasts of plant cells. It is used in photosynthesis.

**Competition:** This is the struggle between organisms to gain a sufficient supply of a scarce resource e.g. Grasses and dandelions compete for water.

**Conservation:** This is the wise use of the environment:

---

## D

**Digestion:** This is the breaking down of food into small soluble pieces.

**Dispersal:** The dispersal of seeds is the scattering of seeds. The advantage of dispersal is that it helps reduce competition.

---

## E

**Egestion:** The getting rid of unused, undigested and unabsorbed food material

**Endocrine glands :** A ductless gland that releases hormones directly into the bloodstream, e.g. the pancreas (it releases insulin which controls blood sugar level).

**Excretion:** This is the getting rid of waste products from chemical reactions in the body.

---

## F

**Food chain:** A food chain is a feeding relationship between organisms through which energy is transferred.

**Food web:** A food web is a number of interconnected food chains.

---

## G

**Gamete:** A gamete is a sex cell. The male gamete is the sperm and the female gamete is the egg.

**Genetics:** This is the study of inheritance.

**Geotropism:** The growth of a plant in response to gravity.

**Germination:** Germination is the growth of a seed into a new plant. The requirements are warmth, moisture and oxygen.

---

## H

**Habitat:** The place where a plant or animal lives is called its habitat.

# Biology Definitions

Mr C - JCS

**Haemoglobin:** The red pigment in red blood corpuscles. It is involved in transporting oxygen.

**Herbivore :** An animal that eats only plants.

**Hormone:** A chemical substance that is released by an endocrine gland.

**Humus :** The organic material of soil. It is formed from decomposing plants and animals.

---

## I

**Implantation:** This is when the embryo attaches itself to the womb wall.

**Ingestion:** This is the taking in of food into the mouth.

**Iodine solution:** This is used to test for starch. If starch is present it turns blue-black.

**Iris:** The iris controls the amount of light entering the eye.

---

## J

**Joint:** This is where two or more bones meet.

---

## L

**Leaching:** The washing of minerals out of the soil.

**Ligaments:** Fibres that connect bone to bone.

**Lime water:** This is used to test for the presence of carbon dioxide. If carbon dioxide is present the lime water turns milky.

---

## M

**Motor nerve:** A nerve that carries messages away from the brain and spinal cord.

---

## N

**Nutrient agar:** This is used as a food supply for bacteria and fungi in the lab.

---

## O

**Omnivore :** An animal that eats plants and animals.

**Organ:** A group of tissues working together e.g. heart.

**Ovulation:** This is the release of an egg from an ovary.

---

## P

**Phloem:** This is a plant transport tissue. It transports food from where it is made to other parts of the plant.

**Photosynthesis:** This is the process in which green plants make food.

**Phototropism:** The growth of a plant in response to light.

**Placenta:** The structure that binds the developing baby to the wall of the womb. It allows nutrients and waste to be exchanged.

**Pollination:** This is the transfer of pollen from the anther of the stamen to the stigma of the carpel.

**Pollution:** This is where things such as oil, sewage, slurry, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and litter damage the environment.

**Pooter:** A piece of equipment used to collect small animals.

**Producer:** An organism that can make its own food.

---

## R

**Respiration:** This is a chemical process where energy is released from food.

**Retina :** The light sensitive layer at the back of the eye.

---

## S

**Sensory nerve:** A nerve that carries messages to the brain and spinal cord.

**Soda lime:** This is used to absorb carbon dioxide.

**Stamen:** The male part of the flowering plant. It is made up of the anther and filament.

**Stomata:** These are pores (openings) in the leaves of a plant, which allows gases to diffuse.

**Synovial fluid:** A lubricating fluid found at a joint. It helps reduce friction.

**System:** A group of organs working together e.g. digestive system.

[Back to top of the page](#)

---

## T

**Tendons:** Fibres that attach muscle to bone.

**Tissue:** A group of similar cells e.g. muscle.

**Transpiration:** This is the loss of water vapour from the surface of a plant. It is highest when there is a gentle breeze, sun and low humidity.

**Trophic level:** The position an organism occupies in a food chain.

**Tropism:** A growth response to a stimulus.

**Tullgren funnel:** A piece of equipment used to extract small animals from leaf litter or soil.

---

## X

**Xylem:** This is a plant transport tissue. It transports water and minerals from the roots to other parts of the plant.

---

## Z

**Zygote:** The cell, which results from the fusion of a male and female gamete.