

UNIT 3 VOCAB GUIDE

Lesson 3.1

DNA

Definition	the double-stranded molecule, present in all living cells, that contains the genetic information used to form and maintain the cell and passes that information to offspring cells
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	You have DNA—the blueprint of life—from both your parents.

energy

Definition	the ability to do work, associated with heat and light
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	There are many forms of energy, including kinetic energy, potential energy, and chemical energy.

life

Definition	anything that uses energy from the environment by eating or breathing or photosynthesizing, makes copies of itself, can adapt to its changing environment over many generations and can regulate internal conditions to maintain a stable state
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The first forms of life were most likely similar to bacteria.

metabolism

Definition	chemical reactions inside a living organism that turn food into energy
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Your metabolism changes and generally slows down as you grow older.

reproduction

Definition	the process by which living organisms produce young or copy themselves
Part of speech	noun

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Use in sentence	Reproduction is a critical biological process that allows our species to continue for generations.
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RNA

Definition	the single-stranded molecule, present in all living cells, that is essential for converting proteins in living organisms
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	RNA helps to deliver genetic information from DNA to the cells of a living organism.

self-maintenance

Definition	how organisms regulate their systems to survive and function properly
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Self-maintenance for humans can include things like sweating to deal with heat.

Lesson 3.2

biome

Definition	large geographic regions defined by similar climate, plant, and animal life
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Rainforest, tundra, freshwater, and coral reefs are types of biomes on Earth.

biosphere

Definition	the entire network of life on Earth; the region of Earth in which living organisms can be found
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Living organisms live in the comfort zone of Earth that we call the biosphere.

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Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	You have DNA—the blueprint of life—from both your parents.

ecosystem

Definition	smaller habitats within biomes such as ponds and forests
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Big jungles, oceans, or mountain ranges can be ecosystems.

metabolism

Definition	chemical reactions inside a living organism that turn food into energy
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Your metabolism changes and generally slows down as you grow older.

reproduction

Definition	the process by which living organisms produce young or copy themselves
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Reproduction is a critical biological process that allows our species to continue for generations.

Lesson 3.3

adaptation

Definition	the process by which living organisms change from generation to generation to become better suited to their environment
Part of speech	noun

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Use in sentence	Adaptation has helped bacteria become resistant to antibiotics over time.
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Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	You have DNA—the blueprint of life—from both your parents.

evolution

Definition	the process by which living organisms develop and change over time
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The evolution of antibiotic-resistant bacteria has been challenging for doctors and patients.

gene

Definition	a segment of DNA that is the blueprint for how an organism will grow, look, and function
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	We share a mix of genes from each of our parents.

mutation

Definition	changes in the structure of a gene that take place in the copying of DNA
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The mutation of finches beaks on the Galapagos Islands helped Darwin's research.

RNA

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Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	RNA helps to deliver genetic information from DNA to the cells of a living organism.

species

Definition	the most specific category in biological classification; organisms can be of the same species if they can mate and produce fertile offspring
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	We know that species of plants and animals adapt to their environments.

Lesson 3.4

asteroid

Definition	small rocky, icy, and metallic celestial bodies left over from the formation of the Solar System
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Scientists think that a giant asteroid crashing to Earth led to the extinction of the dinosaurs.

biosphere

Definition	the entire network of life on Earth; the region of Earth in which living organisms can be found
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Living organisms live in the comfort zone of Earth that we call the biosphere.

de-extinction

Definition	the process of recreating organisms by using the DNA of extinct species
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Scientists recently used extinct woolly mammoth DNA to create a new species called the woolly mouse.

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ecosystem

Definition	smaller habitats within biomes such as ponds and forests
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Big jungles, oceans, or mountain ranges can be ecosystems.

extinction

Definition	the act or process of becoming or making extinct, or of being ended or putting an end to
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The extinction event that ended the dinosaurs' reign on Earth was caused by an asteroid crashing to Earth.

photosynthesis

Definition	the conversion of light energy to chemical energy, which is stored in sugars or other organic compounds, and is performed by plants, algae, and a few other organisms
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Photosynthesis supplies most of the energy necessary for life within the biosphere and is the source of most of the atmosphere's oxygen.