

Completed Glossary



Term	Definition
Adaptation	The process of change by which a species becomes better suited to its environment.
Animal	A living species that feeds on organic matter, typically having sense organs and nervous systems as well as being able to respond to stimuli.
Apex predator	A predator at the top of the food chain, without any natural predators.
Arid	Having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support many species of plant life.
Australia	Name of one of the seven continents. It is a continent that is in the southern hemisphere and located south of Asia.
Bask	Lie exposed to warmth and light, typically from the sun.
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat.
Bird of prey	A bird that feeds on animal flesh, typically having a hooked bill and sharp talons (claws).
Bony Backside/Plate	A very hard bony plate found on the rump of Wombats. Used to protect themselves from predators.
Breeding pair	A pair of animals which produce offspring with some form of bond between the individuals.
Burrow	A hole or tunnel dug by an animal typically used as a dwelling.
Bushfire	A fire in scrub or a forest environment, especially one that spreads rapidly.
Camouflage	Having the ability to hide or disguise into the surrounding environment.
Carnivore	An animal that feeds on other animals.
Climate Change	A change in global climate patterns. Largely due to increased fossil fuels being released into the atmosphere.
Clutch	A group of eggs produced by birds, amphibians or reptiles particularly those laid at a single time.
Cockatoo	A parrot with an upright crest.
Conservation Status	Indicates whether a species still exists and how likely it is to become extinct in the near future.
Controlled burn	A fire lit intentionally for forest management, farming and grassland restoration.

Crest	A tuft of feathers, fur or skin on the head of a bird or other animal.
Defence mechanism	A physical or behavioural adaptation that enables an animal to not be harmed or caught by a predator.
Desert	A barren area of landscape where little rain occurs and therefore living conditions are unsuitable for plants and animals.
Diurnal	A species that is most active during the day.
Drought	A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.
Ectotherm	An animal species that cannot produce their own body heat and therefore rely on an external source, such as the sun or a warm rock, to raise their body temperature. Typically seen in reptiles, amphibians and fish.
Egg	An oval or round object laid by a female bird, reptile, fish or insect usually containing a baby animal.
Endangered	A species that's seriously at risk of extinction.
Endotherm	An animal species that is dependent on or capable of producing their own body heat. Typically seen in mammals and birds.
Environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a plant or animal lives.
Evolve	To change. Referring to features/adaptations in animals that develop gradually over time.
Extinct	A species, family or other larger group having no living members.
Features	A distinctive trait or characteristic of an animal or plant species.
Feral species	A species (plant or animal) that lives in the wild but was once a domesticated species.
Flood	An overflow or a large amount of water beyond its normal limits, especially over what is normally dry land.
Forage	Search widely for food.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of a plant, animal or other organism.
Habitat destruction	The process by which a natural habitat becomes unable to support its native species.
Heatwaves	A prolonged period of abnormally hot weather.
Herbivore	An animal that only eats plants.
Home range	An area over which an animal or group of animals regularly travels in search of food or mates.

Indigenous	Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place.
Insect	A small animal that has six legs and generally one or two pairs of wings.
Introduced species	A species (plant or animal) that is not native to a place or area where it has been transported to the new location by human activity.
Joey	A baby or young marsupial.
Juvenile	Relating to young and immature animals.
Keeper	An animal attendant employed at a zoo.
Land clearing	Removal of trees, stumps, and other vegetation from natural environments.
Leaf litter	Decomposing but recognisable leaves and other debris forming a layer on top of the soil, especially in forests.
Lifecycle	The series of changes in the life of a species; including reproduction.
Lizard	A reptile that typically has a long body and tail, four legs, eyelids and a rough scaly or spiny skin.
Mammal	A warm-blooded species that has hair or fur, feeds their young milk and typically gives birth to live young.
Marsupial	A mammal that is born under developed and are typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly.
Migrate	Move from one region or habitat to another according to the seasons. Typically seen in birds and fish.
Milk	A white fluid rich in fat and proteins, secreted by female mammals to feed their young.
Monogamous	Having only one mating partner at a time or throughout an animal's entire life.
Nocturnal	A species that is active at night.
Omnivore	An animal that eats a variety of food of both plant and animal origin.
Plant	A living species typically growing in a permanent site that absorbs water and inorganic substances through its roots. Includes trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and ferns.
Pollution	The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects.
Pouch	A pocket-like stomach hollow in which marsupials carry their young.
Predator	An animal that naturally preys on others.
Prey	An animal that is hunted and killed by another for food.

Python	A large non-venomous snake, killing prey by constriction.
Rainforest	A dense forest rich in plant and animal species, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.
Reptile	A cold-blooded species that often has dry scaly skin and typically lay soft-shelled eggs on land. Includes snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles and tortoises.
Scat	Animal faecal dropping.
Scales	Each of the small, thin and bony plates protecting the skin of fish and reptiles.
Solitary	A species that lives and exists alone.
Species	A group of living beings consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.
Wildlife trafficking	Deal or trade in illegal and exotic wildlife.
Wombat	A burrowing plant-eating Australian marsupial.
Vegetation clearing	Land is cleared for farming, infrastructure etc, destroying animal habitat.
Venom	A toxic substance injected into prey or predators by biting or stinging. Typically found in snakes, spiders and scorpions.