

JC Science – Key Definitions

Organism



An individual animal, plant or other life form.

Vertebrates



Animals that have backbones.

Invertebrates



Animals that do not have backbones.

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Biodiversity

REVISE
WISE

The range of living things.

Zygote

REVISE
WISE

The single cell humans grow from.

Cell division

REVISE
WISE

When a cell divides to form two cells.

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Chromosomes

REVISE
WISE

A thread-like structure found in the nucleus of each plant and animal cell.

DNA

REVISE
WISE

A chemical called deoxyribonucleic acid.

Gene

REVISE
WISE

Genes are short sections of DNA located on chromosomes.

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Hydrochloric acid

REVISE
WISE

This acid in the stomach kills bacteria and also softens food.

Organ

REVISE
WISE

An organ is a structure in a living thing that carries out a particular function (or functions).

Egestion

REVISE
WISE

The loss of unabsorbed food.

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Plasma

REVISE
WISE

The liquid part of the blood. It is a pale yellow colour and is mostly made of water.

White blood cells

REVISE
WISE

White blood cells fight infection.

Platelets

REVISE
WISE

Platelets are formed in bone marrow when large cells break down into smaller pieces.

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Arteries



Arteries carry blood away from the heart.

Veins



Veins carry blood to the heart. The blood flow or pressure in a vein is low.

Capillaries



Capillaries are tiny blood vessels. They are found between arteries and veins.

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Ecology



Ecology is the study of how plants and animals interact with each other and with their surroundings (or environment).

Habitat



A habitat is the place where an organism lives.

Food chain



A food chain is a list of organisms in which each organism is eaten by the next one in the chain.

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Health



Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.

Cancer



Cancer is a range of conditions where cells lose control of how fast they divide and for how long they divide

Nutrition



Nutrition is how an organism gets its food.