

Glossary

adaptation A body part or way of doing things that helps an organism survive in its habitat. A bird's beak is an adaptation. An animal's teeth are an adaptation.

adult The stage in an insect's life cycle when it lays eggs. An adult mealworm is a beetle.

beak The body part that helps a bird pick up and eat its food. A long, thin beak lets a hummingbird drink nectar from flowers.

camouflage The shape, color, or pattern of an animal that helps it blend in with its surroundings. A toad's color makes it hard to see when it is sitting on dead leaves.

egg The first stage in the life cycle of many organisms. Adult mealworm beetles lay eggs.

habitat The place where an organism lives. An earthworm's habitat is soil. Fish, turtles, frogs, and water plants live in a pond habitat. An organism's habitat gives it the food, water, and space it needs.

larva A wormlike stage in the life cycle of some insects. Mealworms are not real worms. Mealworms change to pupas and then to adult insects.

leaf The plant part that uses sunlight to make food for the plant. The food that a plant makes is a kind of sugar. Some leaves store water for the plant.

life cycle The changes that an organism goes through during its life. A mealworm's life cycle starts with an egg. The egg hatches into a mealworm larva. The larva changes to a pupa. The pupa changes to an adult beetle.

organism A living thing. A real frog is an organism. A plastic frog is not an organism.

predator An animal that hunts, catches, and eats other live animals. Toads are predators. They catch and eat insects, mealworms, and other small animals.

prey An animal that is hunted, caught, and eaten by other animals. Mealworms are prey for toads.

pupa The stage in an insect life cycle after the larva when a larva changes to an adult. A mealworm pupa does not move very much. It does not eat. But changes are happening inside the pupa.

root The plant part that holds the plant in the soil, takes up water from the soil, and stores extra food. People eat some kinds of roots, like carrots and beets.

seed A plant part that can grow into a new plant. Seeds are made inside flowers.