

# Glossary of Terms

**abiotic:** non-living elements in an environment; for example rocks, sand, water; the opposite of biotic

**baculoviruses:** naturally occurring viruses often used in controlled eradication of insect pests

**biodiversity:** the variety of life on earth, different species, genetic variability within species and the variety of ecosystems in which they live

**biome:** an environment or region of the planet made up of many ecosystems, such as the Arctic tundra or the North American prairie

**biotechnology:** a word combining the concepts of biology and technology, research into and the use of techniques involving DNA and living things such as fungi or bacteria

**biotic:** living elements in an environment; plants and animals; the opposite of abiotic

**conservation:** the study, protection and wise use of natural resources, conserving for the future, over the long term

**COSEWIC:** Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, assesses the level of risk of extinction for wildlife species in Canada

**DNA:** the short form for deoxyribonucleic acid, a double-stranded helix which carries genetic information

**ecology:** the study of the relationships between organisms and their environment

**ecosystem:** an interdependent system of living organisms and their physical and geographic environment

**edges:** the transition areas where two vegetation types come together, such as a meadow and a forest; edges are important habitat for many species and play an important role in many ecosystems

**endangered:** a species at risk designation; a species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction

**extinct:** a species at risk designation; a species that no longer exists anywhere in the world

**extirpated:** a species at risk designation; an indigenous species no longer known to exist in one area but exists elsewhere

**food chain:** the transfer of food energy between living things; for example the sun makes the grass grow, the mouse eats the grass seeds, the owl eats the mouse

**genes:** a length of DNA that directs the synthesis of a protein

**greenhouse effect:** the role that various gases in the Earth's atmosphere play in insulating and warming the Earth's surface

**greenhouse gases:** carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O), occur naturally in the Earth's atmosphere, trap the heat of the sun

**habitat:** the arrangement of food, water, shelter and space suitable for species survival

**habitat fragmentation:** the breaking of habitats into smaller pieces; can occur naturally but often caused by human activity such as road or pipeline construction

**invasive species:** a species not native to an area; imported or migrated species that can cause problems for native species and their habitat

**ozone depletion:** the loss of ozone from the upper layers of the Earth's atmosphere

**parasitism:** a relationship in which an organism lives or feeds on another plant or animal

**predation:** the act of preying upon another species, such as when hawks prey on (eat) mice

**protected areas:** places such as national parks where there is some protection for the integrity of the environment and ecological processes

**regenerating forests:** promoting new forest growth, particularly after tree harvesting operations

**special concern:** a species at risk designation; a species that is particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events, formerly known as vulnerable

**species at risk:** the designation of five categories of risk for species – extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened and special concern

**stewardship:** responsible care and management of natural resources, emphasizing responsibility and concern for future generations

**sustainable development:** development that ensures the protection and conservation of resources for future generations

**threatened:** a species at risk designation; a species that is likely to become endangered if conditions that threaten the species do not change

**traditional ecological knowledge:** ecological information and knowledge, handed down from generation to generation through beliefs, legends and stories, particularly among Aboriginal peoples

**wildlife conservation:** the study, protection and wise use of wildlife and wildlife resources, conserving for the future, over the long term

## Answers to The Biodiversity Scramble

ABIATTH	HABITAT
TEER	TREE
KOA	OAK
DETWANL	WETLAND
NIPE	PINE
DOOF HINCA	FOOD CHAIN
FELA	LEAF
CHEIN	NICHE
TOOR	ROOT
RIELSUQR	SQUIRREL
SHUOMROM	MUSHROOM
RAPK	PARK

## Answers to Biodiversity Crossword Puzzle

