adaptation

any structure or behavior of an organism that allows it to survive in its environment
adult

a mature plant
antenna (plural antennae)

the thin feeler on the head of an animal like a crayfish, an isopod, or an insect
appendage

legs and mouth parts
aquatic

referring to water
arch

one of the three basic patterns fingerprints can be sorted into; these fingerprints are characterized by lines that start on one side of the print, rise, fall, and exit on the opposite side of the print
articulated

jointed or joined
in sections
ball-and-socket joint

a place where the rounded end of one bone fits into the cup of another bone. Ball-and-socket joints allow movement in two directions, in addition to rotation; the most versatile joints in the human body.
behavior

the actions of an animal in response to its environment

Photo: Sharp Photography, sharpphotography
beneficial

good or

advantageous
biologist

a scientist who studies living organisms
bone

living tissue organized into a system called a skeleton that grows and changes shape as people grow
camouflage

an adaptation that allows an organism to blend into its environment
carapace

a hard outer shell that covers the main part of the body of an animal
carnivore

an animal that eats only animals
cartilage

the smooth, flexible material that connects some bones and gives shape to some body parts
characteristic

a trait often inherited from a parent. In relation to bones, the shape, size, and orientation of a bone
chromosome

a structure that carries genes
chrysalis

the hard-shelled pupa of a moth or butterfly
compete
to rely on or need the same resource as another organism
contract
to become smaller or shorter in length
cotyledon

the plant structure that provides the germinated seed with food
crayfish

a freshwater animal that has a hard shell and prominent pincers
crustacean

class of mostly aquatic animals with hard, flexible shells
detrimental

harmful or bad
disperse

to spread out

or move away from
DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)

a material that carries the genetic messages of heredity
dormant
inactive or resting
egg

the first stage in an animal’s life cycle
elodea

a kind of aquatic plant that crayfish eat
embryo

the

undeveloped plant within a seed
endanger
to be at risk of becoming extinct
energy

the fuel in a food chain
engineer

someone who works to solve a problem
environment

everything that surrounds and influences an organism
estimate

to figure out about how many; not an exact amount
evidence

data used to support claims. Evidence is based on observations and scientific data.
exoskeleton

any hard outer covering that protects or supports the body of an animal
female

in crayfish, ones that have an egg pore and longer swimmerets
fibrous root system with a large mass of small, stringlike roots where no one root is more prominent than the others
fingerprint

the ridges in your skin at the tip of your fingers. Arches, loops, and whorls are fingerprint patterns.
flower

a plant structure that grows into fruit
food chain

a description of the feeding relationships between all the organisms in an environment
fossil

any remains, trace, or imprint of animal or plant life preserved in Earth’s crust
fruit

a structure of a plant in which seeds form
function
an action that helps a plant or an animal survive
gastropod

the family of
snails
gene

a message carried by a chromosome
generation

a group of organisms born and living at the same time
genetics

the study of how living things pass traits to their offspring
genus

a subdivision in the classification of organisms. In the scientific name of an organism, the genus name always starts with a capital letter and is italicized.
germination

the onset of a seed’s growth
gliding joint

a place where two bones meet, allowing limited movement in two directions but not rotation
growth

an increase in size and mass of an organism
habitat

the place where
an animal lives
herbivore

an animal that eats only plants or algae
hibernate

when animals sleep through the winter
hinge joint

a place where two bones meet, allowing movement in one direction; hinge joints can flex (close) and extend (open)
hydroponics

the growing of plants in a water-based nutrient solution
inherit

the passing of information from one generation to another
inherited trait

a characteristic that is passed down from generation to generation
invasive

an organism that thrives in a new area but causes problems to the organisms in that ecosystem
joint

a place where two bones come together
leaf (plural leaves)

a plant structure that is usually green and makes food from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide
life cycle

the sequence of changes or stages an organism goes through as it grows and develops
ligament

tissue that connects bone to bone
living

alive
loop

one of the three basic patterns fingerprints can be sorted into; these fingerprints are characterized by lines that start at one side of the print, rise, and then turn around and exit on the same side
male

in crayfish, ones that have bigger pincers and narrower tails
mast year

a year when trees produce a lot of seeds
mature

fully developed
migrate
when animals move from places with cold weather to places with warm weather
modify to change
molt
to shed an outer shell in order to grow
movement

action performed by muscles in the body; one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system
muscle
tissue that can contract and produce movement
nutrient

a material needed by a living organism to help it grow and develop
observe
to watch for changes
offspring

a new plant or animal produced by a parent
omnivore

an animal that eats both animals and plants
opposable thumb

ginger which enables the ability to touch fingertips to thumb and to grip and hold objects firmly; one of the most important features of the human body
organism

any living thing
paleontologist

a scientist who studies fossils
parent

an organism that has produced offspring
parent plant

original or larger plant
pattern

a repeating and recognizable feature; most fingerprints fall into three basic patterns
petrify

to change into stone over a long period of time
physical model

a hands-on representation used to aid learning and problem solving
pincer

an animal’s claw used for grasping
population

all organisms of one kind that are living together
predator
an animal that hunts and catches other animals for food
predict

to estimate a future event based on data or experience
prey

an animal eaten by another animal
proboscis

a long, strawlike mouth
property

a characteristic of or something you can observe (color, texture, smell) about an object
protect

to keep safe
protection

one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system
protective coloration

an adaptation; camouflage
pupa

the stage of an insect’s life cycle between the larva and the adult stages
reproduce

to have

offspring
riparian
along a river or stream
root

the part of a plant that grows underground and brings water and nutrients into the plant
sediment

pieces of weathered rock such as sand, deposited by wind, water, and ice
sedimentary rock

a rock that forms when layers of sediments get stuck together
seed

the structure in a fruit that holds the undeveloped plant, or embryo
seed coat

the thin white shell or outer covering that comes off the seed
seedling

a young plant that grows from a seed
shoot

the above-ground part of the plant, which consists of stems, branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit
skeletal muscle

muscle that typically attaches to two different bones with tendons; there are over 650 in the human body
skeletal system

the system of bones in the human body which provide support, protection, and movement
skeleton

the hard inner framework of bones inside an animal that provides shape, support, and protection
skull

the hollow case of the head made up of fused flat bones and moveable jaw bones; surrounds and protects the brain, inner ears, and eyes
species

a specific group of organisms. In the scientific name of an organism, the species name always starts with a lowercase letter and is italicized.
stable system

a system in which there are enough of each type of organisms for the populations to survive so the food chain can continue for several years
stem

any stalk supporting leaves, flowers, or fruit
structure

any identifiable part of an organism
support

one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system
survive
to stay alive
sustain
to maintain, keep up, or keep on going
sustainable

describing a food chain in which the population size of the organisms that are eating must be smaller than the population size of the organisms getting eaten
swimmeret

a small, soft leg under the tail of a crayfish
system

an

interconnected

network
taproot

system where smaller roots branch out from the large main roots
tendon

ropelike tissue that connects muscle to bone
terrestrial referring to land
territory

the part of an animal’s habitat that it defends against others
thrive
to grow fast
and stay healthy
tissue

the different kinds of body-building materials, such as muscle, tendon, ligament, bone, and fat. All your organs, such as your heart and lungs, are made out of different kinds of tissues.
the main part of the body, including shoulders, chest, abdomen, and hips
trait

a characteristic; how a structure or feature looks for an individual or one kind of animal
variation

a difference
whorl

one of the three basic patterns fingerprints can be sorted into; these fingerprints are characterized by lines that go in circles and all lines come back to the place where they started