

Year 8 – Ecosystems Glossary

Key term	Definition
aerobic respiration	Breaking down glucose with oxygen to release energy and producing carbon dioxide and water.
algae	Green uni-cellular or multi-cellular organisms that perform photosynthesis and live underwater.
anaerobic respiration	Releasing energy from the breakdown of glucose without oxygen, producing lactic acid (in animals) and ethanol and carbon dioxide (in plants and microorganisms).
biotechnology	The use of biological processes or organisms to create useful products.
chlorophyll	Green pigment in plants and algae which absorbs light energy.
deficiency	A lack of minerals that causes poor growth.
fermentation	A type of anaerobic respiration in which glucose is converted into ethanol, carbon dioxide, and energy.
fertiliser	Chemicals containing minerals that plants need to build new tissues.
haemoglobin	The substance in blood that carries oxygen around the body.
iodine	Indicator used to test for the presence of starch.
magnesium	A mineral needed by plants for making chlorophyll. It is an element in group 2 of the Periodic Table.
nitrates (biology)	Minerals containing nitrogen for healthy growth.
oxygen debt	Extra oxygen required after anaerobic respiration to break down lactic acid.
phosphates	Mineral containing phosphorus for healthy roots.
photosynthesis	The process plants and algae use to make their own food, glucose. In photosynthesis, carbon dioxide and water react together to make glucose and oxygen.
plasma	Liquid that transports blood cells and other materials around the body.
potassium	A mineral needed by plants for healthy leaves and flowers.

producer	Organism that makes its own food using photosynthesis.
stomata	Holes in the bottom of a leaf which open and close to let gases in and out.