

Year 7 – Organisms Glossary

Key word	Definition
amoeba	A uni-cellular organism.
antagonistic muscle pair	A pair of muscles working in unison to create movement at a joint – as one muscle contracts, the other relaxes.
bone	A tissue that forms a hard structure, used to protect organs and for movement.
bone marrow	Tissue found inside some bones where new blood cells are made.
cartilage	Smooth tissue found at the end of bones. This reduces friction between them preventing rubbing.
cell	The smallest functional unit of a living organism. It contains parts to carry out life processes.
cell membrane	The cell component that surrounds the cell and controls movement of substances in and out.
cell wall	The cell component that surrounds the cell and strengthens it. In plant cells it is made of cellulose.
chloroplast	The plant cell component that absorbs light so the plant can make food by photosynthesis.
circulatory system	Organ system that transports substances around the body.
concentration	A measure of the number of particles in a given volume.
cytoplasm	Jelly-like substance (found in cells) where most chemical processes happen.
digestive system	Organ system that breaks down and then absorbs food molecules.
euglena	Uni-cellular organism that performs photosynthesis.
flagellum	A tail-like structure that allows euglenas to move.
immune system	The organ system that protects the body against infections.
joints	Parts of the skeleton where bones meet.
leaf cell	The plant cells that contain chloroplasts, where photosynthesis takes place.
ligaments	Connect bones in joints.
microscope	An optical instrument used to magnify objects, so small details can be seen clearly.

mitochondria	Part of the cell where food molecules are broken down during the process of respiration, enabling energy transfer.
multi-cellular (organism)	Living things made up of many types of cell.
muscular skeletal system	The organ system in which muscles and bones work together to cause movement and support the body.
nerve cell	An animal cell that transmits electrical impulses around the body.
nucleus	The cell component that contains genetic material (DNA), which controls the cell's activities.
organ	Group of different tissues working together to carry out a function.
organ system	A group of organs working together to perform a function.
red blood cell	An animal cell that transports oxygen around the body.
reproductive system	The organ systems that produce sperm and eggs, also where the fetus develops.
respiration	A chemical reaction where food and oxygen are converted into water and carbon dioxide, enabling energy transfer.
respiratory system	The organ system that replaces oxygen and removes carbon dioxide from blood.
root hair cell	A plant cell that takes in water and minerals from the soil.
skeleton	All the bones in an organism.
specialised cell	A cell whose shape and structure enable it to perform a particular function.
sperm cell	A cell containing male genetic material.
structural adaptations	Special features to help a cell carry out its functions.
tendons	Connect muscles to bones.
tissue	Group of cells of one type, working together to perform a function.
uni-cellular	Living things made up of one cell.
vacuole	The cell component that contains liquid, and can be used by plants to keep the cell rigid and store substances.