

A colossal[®] CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

VOCABULARY LIST



Ancient DNA: DNA recovered from the remains of extinct species

Apex predator: the predator at the top of a food chain with no natural predators of its own

Biobanking: the practice of collecting of biological samples, like DNA, and freezing it in a way that does not damage the genetic code

Biodiversity: all the different types of living things on our planet

Breeding: the process of purposefully mating animals to produce offspring

Chromosomes: structures found in cells that carry genetic information in the form of DNA

Climate change: long-term shifts in the Earth's temperature and weather patterns

Cloning: scientific process that creates an exact genetic replica of an organism, cell, or DNA sequence

Compost: to collect and store plant material and food scraps so it can decay and be added to soil to improve its quality

Conservation: the act of protecting Earth's natural resources for current and future generations

Conservationist: a person who acts for the protection of the environment and wildlife

De-extinction: using science to bring back an organism that was once extinct

Descendants: biological offspring of a specific ancestor

Detergent: a substance used for cleaning

Disease: a condition of the body that causes harm to the health of an organism

DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid, a molecule that carries a genetic code unique to every individual living thing

Dog breeds: different types of dogs that have been bred by humans to perform certain tasks or have certain desired characteristics

Drool: saliva dripping from the mouth

Ecosystem: a community of living organisms and their non-living physical environment interacting together within a specific geographic area

Embryo: initial stage of development of an animal or plant

Endangered: describes a species that is seriously at risk of disappearing from the Earth entirely

Extinct: describes a species that once existed on Earth but no longer has any living members

Extract: remove

Fertilize: to introduce male reproductive materials to an egg to create an embryo

Food chain: the order in which organisms in an ecosystem depend on each other for food

Fossils: preserved remains of plants and animals that lived long ago



Fossilized: having been changed into a fossil

Gametes: reproductive cells from animals or plants

Genes: segments of DNA that are passed from parent to child and determine characteristics

Genetic code: instructions contained in a gene that determine what features are passed down from parents to their offspring

Genetic diversity: the range of inherited traits within a species

Genotype: genetic makeup of an organism

Habitat: the natural environment where an organism lives and meets its needs for survival

Incubator: a device that regulates environmental conditions to promote the growth and development of living things

Inherit: to receive genetic traits from parents

Keystone species: a species that has a large impact on its ecosystem and is important to the survival of other species

Laboratory (Lab): place equipped with tools needed for scientific research

Offspring: the children or young of a particular parent

Overhunting: the act of hunting so many animals of a particular species that very few remain

Phenotype: the observable characteristic or traits of an organism

Pollution: substances that harms the environment

Population: group of individuals of a certain species that are living in a specific geographic area

Pregnant: containing unborn offspring

Reproduce: to produce babies or offspring

Reproductive biology: scientific study of animal reproduction

Saliva: watery liquid produced in the mouth to help with chewing and digestion of food

Scenario: make-believe situation

Scientist: someone who studies the world around them by asking questions and trying to find answers about the way things work

Sociable: seeking company of other individuals of the same species

Species: a category of living things that are capable of interbreeding

Sterile: free from any germs or microorganisms

Strand: a long, thin length of something

Traits: genetically determined characteristics

Veterinarian or Vet: a medical doctor for animals

Vocalizations: sounds produced with an animal's voice that are used to communicate

Wildlife: living things in nature, not including humans or domesticated animals such as pe

