

## FOSS Structures of Life Module

### Glossary

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**adaptation** any structure or behavior of an organism that allows it to survive in its environment (SRB, IG)

**adult** a mature plant (IG)

**antenna** (plural **antennae**) the thin feeler on the head of an animal like a crayfish, an isopod, or an insect (SRB, IG)

**appendage** legs and mouth parts (IG)

**aquatic** referring to water (SRB)

**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 (IG)

**articulated** jointed or joined in sections, as in the human skeleton (IG)

**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 (IG)

**behavior** the actions of an animal in response to its environment (SRB, IG)

**beneficial** good or advantageous (SRB)

**biologist** a scientist who studies living organisms (SRB)

**bone** living tissue that grows and changes shape as people grow; organized into a system called a skeleton (IG)

**camouflage** an adaptation that allows an organism to blend into its environment (SRB)

**carapace** a hard outer shell that covers the main part of the body of an animal (SRB, IG)

**carnivore** an animal that eats only animals (SRB, IG)

**cartilage** the smooth, flexible material that connects some bones and gives shape to some body parts (SRB)

**characteristic** the shape, size, and orientation of a bone; provides clues about the function of the bone (IG)

**chromosome** a structure that carries genes (SRB)

**chrysalis** the hard-shelled pupa of a moth or butterfly (SRB)

**compete** to rely on or need the same resource as another organism (IG)

**contract** to become smaller or shorter in length (SRB, IG)

**cotyledon** the plant structure that provides the germinated seed with food (SRB, IG)

**crayfish** a freshwater animal that has a hard shell and prominent pincers (IG)

**crustacean** a class of mostly aquatic animals with hard, flexible shells (SRB, IG)

**detrimental** harmful or bad (SRB)

**DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)** a material that carries the genetic messages of heredity (SRB)

**disperse** to spread out or move away from (IG)

**dormant** inactive or resting (SRB, IG)

**egg** the first stage in an animal's life cycle (SRB)

**elodea** a kind of aquatic plant that crayfish eat (IG)

**embryo** the undeveloped plant within a seed (SRB, IG)

**endanger** at risk of becoming extinct (SRB)

**energy** the fuel in a food chain (IG)

**environment** everything that surrounds and influences an organism (SRB, IG)

**estimate** to decide how much or how many without counting each object in the group (IG)

**exoskeleton** any hard outer covering that protects or supports the body of an animal (SRB)

**female** in crayfish, ones that have an egg pore and longer swimmerets (IG)

**fibrous root** system with a large mass of small, stringlike roots where no one root is more prominent than the others (IG)

**fingerprint** the ridges in your skin at the tip of your fingers. [Arches](#), [loops](#), and [whorls](#) are fingerprint patterns. (SRB, IG)

**flower** a plant structure that grows into fruit (SRB, IG)

**food chain** a description of the feeding relationships between all the organisms in an environment (SRB, IG)

**fruit** a structure of a plant in which seeds form (SRB, IG)

**function** an action that helps a plant or an animal survive (SRB, IG)

**gastropod** the family of snails (SRB)

**gene** a message carried by the chromosomes (SRB)

**generation** a group of organisms born and living at the same time (SRB)

**genetics** the study of how living things pass traits to their offspring (SRB)

**germination** the beginning of development of a seed after a period of dormancy or rest (IG)

**gliding joint** a place where two bones meet, allowing limited movement in two directions but not rotation (IG)

**growth** when an organism gets bigger and more complex (IG)

**habitat** where an organism naturally lives (IG)

**herbivore** an animal that eats only plants or algae (SRB, IG)

**hibernate** when animals sleep through the winter (SRB)

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

**hydroponics** growing plants without soil in a water-based nutrient solution (IG)

**inherited trait** a characteristic that is passed down from generation to generation (SRB, IG)

**joint** a place where two bones come together (SRB, IG)

**leaf** a plant structure that is usually green and makes food from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide (SRB, IG)

**life cycle** the sequence of changes an organism goes through (SRB, IG)

**ligament** tissue that connects bone to bone (SRB)

**living** alive (IG)

**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 (IG)

**male** in crayfish, ones that have bigger pincers and narrower tails (IG)

**mature** fully developed (SRB)

**migrate** when animals move from places with cold weather to places with warm weather (SRB)

**modify** to change (IG)

**molt** to shed an outer shell in order to grow (SRB, IG)

**movement** action performed by muscles in the body; one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system (IG)

**muscle** tissue that can contract and produce movement (SRB, IG)

**nutrient** a material needed by a living organism to help it grow and develop (SRB, IG)

**observe** to watch for changes (IG)

**offspring** a new plant or animal produced by a parent (SRB, IG)

**omnivore** an animal that eats both animals and plants (SRB, IG)

**opposable thumb** finger 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 (IG)

**organism** any living thing (SRB, IG)

**parent** an organism that has produced offspring (SRB, IG)

**pattern** a design; most fingerprints fall into three basic patterns (IG)

**pincer** an animal's claw used for grasping (SRB, IG)

**population** all organisms of one kind that are living together (SRB, IG)

**predator** an animal that hunts and catches other animals for food (SRB, IG)

**predict** to estimate a future event based on data or experience (IG)

**prey** an animal eaten by another animal (SRB, IG)

**proboscis** a long, strawlike mouth (SRB)

**property** something you can observe, like color, texture, or smell (IG)

**protect** to keep from harm (SRB, IG)

**protection** one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system (IG)

**pupa** the stage of an animal's life cycle between the larva and the adult stages (SRB)

**reproduce** to have offspring (SRB, IG)

**root** the part of a plant that grows under ground (SRB, IG)

**seed** the structure in a fruit that holds the undeveloped plant, or embryo (SRB, IG)

**seed coat** the outer covering of a seed (IG)

**seedling** young plants that grow from seeds (IG)

**shoot** the above-ground part of a plant, which consists of stems, branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit (IG)

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

**skeletal system** the system of bones in the human body which provide support, protection, and movement (IG)

**skeleton** the hard inner framework of bones inside an animal that provides shape, support, and protection (IG)

**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 (IG)

**stem** any stalk supporting leaves, flowers, or fruit (SRB, IG)

**structure** any identifiable part of an organism (SRB, IG)

**support** one of the three major functions of bones in the skeletal system (IG)

**survive** to stay alive (SRB, IG)

**sustain** to maintain (IG)

**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 (IG)

**swimmeret** a small, soft leg under the tail of a crayfish (SRB, IG)

**system** an interconnected network; bones are organized into a system called a skeleton (IG)

**taproot** system where smaller roots branch out from the large main roots (IG)

**tendon** ropelike tissue that connects muscle to bone (SRB, IG)

**terrestrial** referring to land (SRB)

**territory** the part of an animal's habitat that it defends against others of its own kind (IG)

**thrive** to grow fast and stay healthy (SRB)

**tissue** any of a number of different kinds of materials that make up the body, such as muscle, tendon, ligament, and bone (IG)

**torso** the main part of the body, including shoulders, chest, abdomen, and hips (IG)

**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 (IG)