

**FOSS Structures of Life Module  
Glossary  
2005 Edition**

**Abdomen:** One of the segments of an insect. (TG)

**Antennae:** The feelers on a crayfish. (TG)

**Balance:** A tool for weighing objects (TG)

**Behavior:** Things that animals do. (TG)

**Bess beetle:** A type of beetle with a tiny, gold-colored fringe on its legs and on the edges of its body. It is commonly found in decaying logs from Texas to Florida and as far north as Canada. Also known as Betsy beetle, bessbug, patent leather beetle, and passalid. (TG)

**Bristles:** The short hairs on crayfish that help them sense things in their environment. (TG)

**Carapace:** The main body shell of crustaceans. (TG)

**Cotyledon:** The "seed leaf" that provides the germinated seed with food. (SS, TG)

**Crayfish:** A freshwater animal that has a hard shell and prominent pincers. (SS)

**Crustacean:** A class of mostly aquatic animals with hard, flexible shells, jointed legs, and two pairs of antennae. (TG, SS)

**Dormant:** When something is resting or inactive. (TG)

**Elodea:** A kind of aquatic plant that crayfish eat. (TG)

**Embryo:** The undeveloped plant within a seed. (SS, TG)

**Environment:** The surroundings of a plant or animal. (SS)

**Estimate:** To decide how much or how many without counting each object in the group. (TG)

**Estivate:** When a snail seals the opening of its shell to a flat surface during times of stress, such as lack of food or water. (TG)

**Exoskeleton:** The hard outer covering of some animals that supports and protects them. (SS)

**Extinct:** No longer alive anywhere on Earth. (SS)

**Flower:** A structure from which fruits and seeds develop. (TG)

**Fruit:** A structure of a plant in which seeds are found. (SS, TG)

**Fossil:** A part of a plant or animal that lived long ago and has turned to rock. (SS)

**Function:** How a structure works or how it is used by an animal. (TG)

**Germination:** The beginning of development of a seed after a period of dormancy or rest. (TG, SS)

**Growth:** When an organism gets bigger and more complex. (TG)

**Habitat:** Where an organism naturally lives. (SS, TG)

**Head:** One of the segments of an insect. (TG)

**Hydroponics:** Growing plants without soil in a water-based nutrient solution. (TG, SS)

**Ice age:** A time in the history of Earth when large sheets of ice covered much of the northern half of the planet. (SS)

**Insect:** An organism that has six legs, three body parts (a head, thorax, an abdomen), and antennae. (TG)

**Leaf:** The flat (usually) green parts of the plant that grow from the stem or up from the roots. (TG)

**Life cycle:** The sequence of changes undergone by an organism as it develops from its earliest stage to the same stage in the next generation. (SS, TG)

**Mite:** An organism that is often found riding along on a bess beetle. (TG)

**Mold:** The slimy or cottonlike growth that develops on moist material. (TG)

**Molting:** The process by which crayfish shed their outer shells in order to grow. (SS)

**Nutrient:** A material used by a living organism to help it grow and develop. (SS, TG)

**Organism:** Any living thing, including plants and animals. (TG)

**Parasite:** An organism that lives on or in a plant or animal of a different kind. The parasite gets nutrients from the other animal or plant. (SS)

**Pincers:** The big, jointed leglike structures in the front of the crayfish. (TG)

**Predator:** An animal that hunts and catches other animals for food. (SS)

**Property:** Something you can observe, like color, texture, or smell. (TG)

**Reproduce:** To produce new plants or new animals. (SS)

**Root:** The part of a plant that grows downward in the soil. Roots provide support and take up water and nutrients. (TG, SS)

**Seed:** The structure in a fruit that holds the undeveloped plant, or embryo. (TG, SS)

**Seed coat:** The outer covering of a seed. (TG, SS)

**Seedling:** Young plants that grow from seeds. (TG)

**Stem:** Any stalk supporting leaves, flowers, or fruit. (TG, SS)

**Structure:** Any identifiable part of an organism. (TG, SS)

**Swimmerets:** Small leglike structures under the tail of a crayfish. (TG)

**Terrarium:** Not defined (TG)

**Territory:** The part of an animal's habitat that it defends against others of its own kind. (TG)

**Thorax:** One of the segments of an insect. (TG)

**Thrive:** To grow fast and stay healthy. (SS)

**Venn diagram:** A diagram of two circles used to compare things. (TG)