

Glossary

A

Abiotic: non-living component of the environment.

Adaptations: The ability of a living organism to survive in a given surrounding (environment).

Aerosol spray: These are gases that are kept in containers under high pressure and are released by spraying.

Afterbirth: This is the placenta and foetal membrane discharged from the uterus after the birth of the baby.

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. State at which the body cannot withstand or defend itself against any opportunistic diseases.

Amniotic fluid: A fluid (watery matter) that surrounds the foetus within the amnion in the womb.

B

Biodegradable: A substance that can be broken down so as to rot.

Biotic: The living component of the environment.

Boiler scale: A grey coat (fur) that develops in hot water pipes making them narrow caused by hard water.

Breathing roots: Special roots developed by plants that grow in marshy areas for absorbing oxygen from the atmosphere.

C

Campaign: Creating public awareness of an issue.

Carnassial teeth: The last upper premolar and first lower molar teeth of carnivorous animals used for tearing flesh.

Carnivores: These are animals that feed on other animals (flesh).

Chancroid: A sexually transmitted disease that causes wounds in the lymph nodes in the groin region.

Chewing cud: The process of returning food into the mouth for further

chewing when at rest by some herbivorous animals.

Conservation: The act of preserving, protecting, or restoring the natural environment.

Contours: These are imaginary lines that join places with similar heights.

D

Deciduous: Plants that shed their leaves during dry seasons.

Dermis: The inner layer of the skin that contains blood capillaries, sweat glands and other structures.

Diastema: A gap between the teeth of some herbivores that allows the tongue to grasp, mix and roll food.

Drugs: Substances that affect the working of the body when taken.

E

Electromagnet: A magnet formed by allowing some electric current to pass through a magnetic material.

Embryo: The stage of an unborn baby after conception and implantation but before all the organs are developed; usually the first eight weeks.

Energy: The ability to do work.

Energy transformation: The process by which energy changes from one form to another.

Environment: All the living organism and whatever surrounds us.

Epidermis: The outer layer of the skin that prevents dirt and germs from entering out bodies.

Excretion: The process of removing waste products from the body.

Expiration: To breathe out.

F

Fertilisation: The fusion of nuclei of male and female sex cells to form a zygote.

Foetus: An unborn human baby more than eight weeks after conception, where it has developed a face, arms and legs.

Fossil fuel: A natural fuel, formed from dead organic matter buried long time ago.

Fusion: Joining together to become one.

Fur: A coating caused by hard water on the inside surface of a pipe or kettle when used for heating.

G

Germs: Very tiny organisms which cause disease in animals.

Geothermal: Energy derived from the earth below.

Gestation period: The period between fertilisation (conception) and birth.

Gradient: The steepness of a slope.

H

Habitat: The natural living place for an organism.

Halophytes: Plants that grow in salty waters.

Herbivores: A group of animals which feed entirely on plants only.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It causes AIDS.

Hydrophytes: Plants that survive in water or very moist soils.

Hygiene: Conditions or practices that maintain health and prevent diseases.

I

Implantation: The process by which the zygote attaches itself to the lining of the uterus.

Inclined plane: A slope which can be used to make work easier.

K

Kinetic energy: Form of energy possessed by a moving body.

L

Labour pains: The pains an expectant mother experiences during child birth.

Lactating mother: A woman who is nursing a baby or infant.

Lather: White mass of bubbles produced by soap when mixed with water.

M

Machine: An apparatus used to help perform a certain function.

Magnet: A metal which has the ability to attract others.

Magnetic field: A region of force around a magnet.

Mesophytes: Plants that grow in places with enough water.

Micro-organism: Small organisms that cause diseases.

Mulching: The covering of the base of a plant or farm with dry plant remains to conserve water in soil and reduce evaporation.

N

Nagana: A disease of cattle caused by trypanosome parasite and transmitted by tsetse fly.

Non-renewable energy: Source of energy that can be depleted by use, for example, petrol.

Nutrition: Obtaining foods necessary for health and growth.

O

Omnivores: A group of animals that feed on both flesh and vegetation.

Ovulation: The release of ova from the ovary once every month.

Ozone layer: A layer that protects the earth from the harmful radiation from the sun.

P

Parturition: The action of giving birth to young ones (childbirth).

Pollution: The introduction of harmful substances into the environment.

Pulley: A wheel with a grooved rim around which a cord passes, used to raise heavy weights.

R

Renewable energy: Source of energy which can be replaced once they are used up or depleted.

Reproduction: The process of producing an offspring.

S

Semen: A male reproductive fluid containing sperms.

Scum: A layer of dirt or froth on the surface of a liquid.

Sign: An indication of a disease seen by doctors.

Streamlined body: The body of an organism that is designed to ease and speed movement.

Succulent: Having thick fleshy leaves or stem.

Symptom: An indication of a disease felt by the patient.

T

Transpiration: To give off water vapour through the stomata in plants.

U

Umbilical cord: The channel through which a developing embryo in the womb gets nutrients from the mother.

V

Venereal disease: A disease acquired through sexual intercourse. Also called and STD or STI.

W

Weaning: To accustom an infant to food other than the mother's milk.

X

Xerophytes: Plants that are well adapted to grow in dry areas.

Z

Zygote: The cell that is formed by the fusion of the male and female gametes.