

Organism - a form of life composed of mutually interdependent parts that maintain various vital processes

Cell - a usually microscopic structure containing nuclear and cytoplasmic material enclosed by a semipermeable membrane and, in plants, a cell wall; the basic structural unit of all organisms

Unicellular - having or consisting of a single cell

Multicellular - composed of several or many cells

Homeostasis - the tendency of a system, especially the physiological system of higher animals, to maintain internal stability, owing to the coordinated response of its parts to any situation or stimulus that would tend to disturb its normal condition or function

Binomial Nomenclature - A naming system that gives each organism a two-word scientific name

Species - A group of organisms that have similar traits and are able to produce fertile offspring

Genus - A group of similar species

Dichotomous Key - A series of questions with two possible answers that is used to identify organisms

Cladogram - A branched diagram that shows how organisms are related

Classification - the assignment of organisms to groups within a system of categories distinguished by structure, origin, etc. The usual series of categories is phylum (or, especially in botany, division), class, order, family, genus, species, and variety

Taxonomy - the science dealing with the description, identification, naming, and classification of organisms

Compound - composed of several similar parts that combine to form a whole

Simple - not divided into parts

Alternate - placed singly at different heights on the axis, on each side in succession, or at definite angular distances from one another, as leaves

Opposite - situated on diametrically opposed sides of an axis, as leaves when there are two on one node

Pinnate - having leaflets or primary divisions arranged on each side of a common stalk

Palmate - having four or more lobes or leaflets radiating from a single point

Lobed - having lobes or divisions extending less than halfway to the middle of the base

Smooth - free from projections or unevenness of surface; not rough

Toothed - any small, toothlike marginal lobe

State Tree - a tree chosen as an official symbol of a U.S. state

Coniferous - belonging or pertaining to the conifers

Deciduous - shedding the leaves annually, as certain trees and shrubs