

GLOSSARY



antenna (pl. antennae) A sensory organ attached to an insect's head. Antennae are used to smell, touch, taste, and sometimes hear.

balance A measuring tool used to compare the relative weights of two objects.

camouflage To conceal or disguise, usually by blending in with one's surroundings.

centimeter A standard unit in the metric system of measurement; 100 centimeters equal 1 meter.

chrysalis The pupa of a butterfly, or the hard case made by some butterfly larvae in which a caterpillar transforms into an adult.

degree The unit used to measure temperature.

distance How far it is from one object or place to another object or place.

exoskeleton The hard outer skin of insects that gives their bodies shape and structural support.

expand To enlarge or increase the number, extent, or volume of something.

experiment A scientific investigation that helps solve a problem.

fall The season when the leaves fall from the trees, occurring between summer and winter.

filter A porous material through which a liquid or gas is passed to separate out matter.

float To rest on the surface of a liquid.

force A push or a pull.

frass The waste product, or droppings, of insects.

freeze To change from a liquid state to a solid state.

garden A place where people grow a variety of plants.

height How tall an object is; the measurement from the bottom to the top of an object.

ice The solid state of water.

inch A standard unit in the U.S. customary system of measurement; 12 inches equal 1 foot.

larva (pl. larvae) Immature insects that are wingless and often wormlike; they will eventually enter a pupal state and transform into adults that have a completely different appearance from any previous life stage.

length How long an object is; the measurement from one end of an object to the other.

life cycle All the stages an animal goes through from the beginning of its own life as an embryo or egg until maturity when it is able to produce other embryos or eggs.

magnifier A tool with a glass or plastic lens that enlarges the appearance of objects viewed through it.

magnify To make something look larger.

mandibles The mouth parts of an insect that help it to hold or bite food.

measure To find out an object's size.

metamorphosis The change of an insect or other animal from one form to another as it matures.

model Something that stands for something else.

molt To cast off the outer covering of the body periodically. Insects molt in order to grow.

nectar The sweet liquid in flowers eaten by butterflies and many other insects.

new plant Plant inside the seed that is beginning to grow.

odor A sensation perceived by the sense of smell; a scent.

plant To place into the soil and help to grow.

predict To state or describe an expected outcome based on previous knowledge or experience.

proboscis The elongated, tubular mouthpiece of many butterflies and moths; it is used to take in fluids, such as nectar from flowers.

property Something about an object that can be observed with the senses; a trait or characteristic of an object.

pupa (pl. pupae) The third life stage of an insect that undergoes complete metamorphosis. The insect's body changes completely during this stage.

root The part of a plant that grows downward into soil or water in order to absorb water and nutrients and to hold the plant upright and stable.

ruler A collection of same-sized units used to measure length, width, or height.

scent A smell or an odor.

seasons The four natural divisions of the year: spring, summer, fall, and winter, in the North and South Temperate zones.

seed A plant structure that contains a baby plant and stored food supply and that can grow into a mature plant if conditions are favorable.

seed coat The thin covering that protects a seed until it is ready to grow.

seed food A simple name for the food stored within a seed.

segments The parts into which an insect's body is divided, allowing it to flex and move about easily, despite its rigid exoskeleton.

share To let others know about information.

shoot The part of a seed that will become the stem and leaves in a mature plant.

sink To fall to the bottom of a liquid.

size How big or little an object is.

soil The material that plants grow in. Soil is a combination of sand, silt, clay, and decomposing organic matter.

sort To group together objects that are alike in some way.

spring The season of growth, occurring between winter and summer.

sprout To begin to grow from a seed into a young plant (germinate).

standard unit A unit of measure that all people everywhere agree will always have the same size and name.

sucker feet The false legs located at the rear of the body of most moth and butterfly larvae.

summer The usually warmest season of the year, occurring between spring and fall.

temperature A measure of how hot or cold something is.

thermometer A tool used to measure temperature.

true legs The six legs possessed by a larva that are pointed and have joints.

unit A label for a measurement; the quantity used to measure.

weather What the air is like at a certain time and place—how hot or cold it is, how it moves, and how much moisture it carries.

weight How heavy something is.

width How wide an object is; the measurement along the shorter side of an object.

wind Air that moves across Earth's surface.

wind vane A tool used to tell wind direction.

winter The coldest season of the year occurring between fall and spring.

Note: The Delta Science Reader includes its own glossary of terms.

