

Charles Darwin – Glossary

adapt verb [intransitive]

to change your ideas or behaviour in order to deal with a new situation:

The children adapted quickly to the new school.

advantage noun [count]

a good feature or quality that something has:

The equipment has the additional advantage of being easy to carry.

ancestry noun [singular or uncount]

your ancestors and family history:

His family was of Danish ancestry.

anger noun [uncount]

the strong feeling you get that makes you want to hurt someone or shout at them:

Some people express their anger through violence.

basis noun [count]

the important ideas, facts, or actions from which something can develop:

Bernard's work forms the basis of all modern physiology.

be descended from phrase

to be related to a person or animal that lived long ago

beetle noun [count]

an insect with a smooth hard back

characteristic noun [count]

a typical quality or feature:

the main characteristics of 20th-century culture

companion noun [count]

someone who is with you or who you spend a lot of time with

controversial adjective

causing strong feelings of disagreement:

controversial plans to build a new motorway

disadvantage noun [count]

something that makes someone or something less effective, successful, or attractive:

One of the disadvantages of the job is the long hours I work.

environment noun [count]

the place in which people live and work, including all the physical conditions that affect them:

Parents are responsible for providing the right environment for their children to learn in.

evolve verb [intransitive]

to gradually change and develop over a period of time:

a debate as to whether birds evolved from dinosaurs

expedition noun [count]

a long journey organized for a particular purpose, especially to a dangerous or distant place:

the 1910 expedition to Antarctica led by Captain Scott

mutate verb [intransitive]

to become physically different from other plants or animals of the same type because of a genetic change

naturalist noun [count]

someone who studies plants and animals

observation noun [count]

a written or spoken comment about something that you have seen, heard, or felt

proposition noun [count]

a statement that people can examine in order to decide whether it is true

pros and cons phrase

advantages and disadvantages

publish verb [transitive]

to make information available for everyone to read:

The department's report was published in June.

puzzled adjective

confused because you cannot understand something

related adjective

belonging to the same family:

Annie's related to the director.

remain verb [intransitive]

to stay in a particular place or position and not leave it:

You must remain in bed for three days after surgery.

revolutionary adjective

new and completely changing the way that something is done or thought about:

a revolutionary idea

shocking adjective

making you feel extremely surprised, upset, or embarrassed

species noun [count]

a plant or animal group whose members all have similar general features and are able to produce young plants or animals together:

the human species

superior adjective

having a higher status or position than someone or something else:

Rockwood was charged with disobeying a superior officer.

survival noun [uncount]

the fact that someone is still alive, or the fact that something still exists:

These animals face a constant fight for survival.

theory noun [count]

an idea that explains how or why something happens:

Einstein's theory of relativity

tortoise noun [count]

an animal that walks slowly and that can pull its head and legs into the shell on its back