The University of Texas at Austin
UT High School

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Biology A
Unit 2 Glossary

Term	Definition
activation energy	the amount of energy required to produce a chemical product (Unit 2, Lesson 1)
catalyst	molecules that speed up chemical reactions (Unit 2, Lesson 1)
cell	the basic unit of life (Unit 2, Lesson 2)
enzymes	a type of protein that lowers the activation energy of a reaction to speed it up or catalyze it (Unit 2, Lesson 1)
eukaryotic	cells that are more complex; contain membrane-bound components or organelles (Unit 2, Lesson 2)
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus; a type of virus that invades cells of the immune system, reproduces through the lysogenic cycle, and causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS (Unit 2, Lesson 4)
host specificity	the limitation of viruses to a small range of hosts as a result of complementary virus and cell shapes (Unit 2, Lesson 4)
influenza	a virus that reproduces through the lytic cycle (Unit 2, Lesson 4)
lysogenic	a type of viral reproduction in which a virus invades a host cell and lies dormant for a long period of time before lysing the cell or it bursting open (Unit 2, Lesson 4)
lytic	a type of viral reproduction that involves the lyses or bursting open of the host cell (Unit 2, Lesson 4)
multicellular	describes organisms that are made of many cells that work together to perform life processes (Unit 2, Lesson 3)
organ	collections of tissue that work together to perform a similar function (Unit 2, Lesson 3)
organ system	collections of organs that work together to perform a similar function (Unit 2, Lesson 3)
organelles	subcellular units that are enclosed by a membrane and perform specific functions; examples include the nucleus and mitochondria (Unit 2, Lesson 2)
prokaryotic cells	cells that do not contain membrane-bound components or organelles (Unit 2, Lesson 2)
specialize	when cells develop to have a specific shape to perform a specific function; examples include red blood cells in animals and xylem in plants (Unit 2, Lesson 3)
substrate	a specific molecule that fits into the active site of an enzyme; the molecule or molecules that an enzyme acts on (Unit 2, Lesson 1)
tissue	collections of specialized cells that work together to perform a similar function (Unit 2, Lesson 3)
unicellular	describes organisms that exist as one cell carrying out all life processes; examples include bacteria (Unit 2, Lesson 3)
virus	microscopic, nonliving particles made of proteins and nucleic acids that require a host to reproduce (Unit 2, Lesson 4)