



**Biology A**  
**Unit 1 Glossary**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
amino acid	an organic molecule that serves as the building block of proteins, composed of the elements carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
biological substance	a substance that either comes from a living organism (such as blood) or contains living organisms (such as bacteria) (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
biohazard	a biological substance that could potentially cause harm (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
biomolecule	any molecule that is found in living organisms; includes proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
carbohydrates	biomolecule that includes sugars and starches; made up of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms; function as a form of quick energy (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
chloroplast	a membrane-bound organelle or structure where photosynthesis takes place (Unit 1, Lesson 5)
control	the standard that experimental results are compared to (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
controlled variable	factors that are not directly involved in the experiment but the experimenter wants to make sure and keep these factors constant, also known as constants (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
corrosive	capable of corroding, or eating away at materials it comes in contact with (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
dependent variable	the component of an experiment that is counted, measured, or observed (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
dilute	to make a substance thinner or weaker by adding water to it (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
dispose	to put in a particular place (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
eukaryote	a single or multi-celled organism that has a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles (Unit 1, Lesson 5)
experiment	the procedure used by scientists to test a hypothesis and gather information in a controlled setting (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
flammable	capable of catching on fire (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
formulate	to devise or create (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
function	the way something works or operates, or what it does (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
glucose	a simple sugar that is necessary for living things to break down and use as an energy source; a monosaccharide (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
hazardous	dangerous (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
hypothesis	a solution for a question or problem that can be tested (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
independent variable	the component of the experiment that is changed, or manipulated by the experimenter (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
lipid	a biomolecule that includes fats, oils and waxes; made up of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms; functions as long-term energy storage (Unit 1, Lesson 4)

mitochondria	a membrane-bound organelle or structure that is responsible for the production of the cell's energy (Unit 1, Lesson 5)
monomer	a small molecule that can be bonded to other similar molecules to form a polymer, the building blocks of a larger molecule (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
monosaccharide	the monomer of a carbohydrate; a single sugar (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
nucleic acid	a biomolecule that includes DNA and RNA; made up of nucleotides containing carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus atoms; functions as a cell's genetic information (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
nucleotide	building block of nucleic acids; made of a sugar, phosphate group, and a nitrogen base (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
origin	the point at which something begins (Unit 1, Lesson 5)
phenomenon	an occurrence or circumstance that is observed within the scientific community (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
phospholipid	a type of lipid that has a round phosphate head and two fatty acid tails (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
polymer	a large molecule composed of many repeating units, made up of monomers (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
polysaccharide	a polymer of a carbohydrate; made of 3 or more monosaccharides (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
predictable	happens in a way that is expected (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
procedure	a set of instructions to complete a task (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
prokaryote	a single celled organism that does not have a nucleus and membrane-bound organelles (Unit 1, Lesson 5)
protein	a biomolecule involved in all life processes; made up of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen atoms; a polymer of amino acids (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
protocell	an organized structure enclosed by a lipid membrane that can grow and divide; the proposed first cell on earth (Unit 1, Lesson 5)
qualitative data	descriptive data that scientists would record from their observations, examples include color, smell (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
quantitative data	numerical data that is measured, examples include temperature (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
radioactive	produces harmful rays of radiation (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
scientific method	series of steps used by scientists to solve a problem or answer a question (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
structure	the arrangement of parts or elements to form something complex (Unit 1, Lesson 4)
theory	a set of statements created to explain a phenomenon that is backed with scientific evidence; can be tested with predictable results (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
toxic	poisonous, could cause serious harm (Unit 1, Lesson 1)
trial	a test or experiment done to obtain results (Unit 1, Lesson 3)
valid	having a reasonable basis in knowledge or fact; officially accepted (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
Venn diagram	a graphic organizer used to compare two different concepts (Unit 1, Lesson 2)
ventilation	when fresh air is circulated through a room (Unit 1, Lesson 1)