# Science Learning Hub – Pokapū Akoranga Pūtaiao: Glossary terms

**bacteria**

(Singular: bacterium) Single-celled microorganisms that have no nucleus.

**benthic**

Bottom-dwelling; describing the flora and fauna found on the bottom of a sea or lake.

**invertebrates**

An animal without a backbone, for example butterflies, worms, snails, insects, spiders and aquatic species such as crabs and jellyfish.

**krill**

Small marine crustaceans that are found in all the world's oceans.

**phytoplankton**

Phytoplankton, also known as microalgae, are very small plant organisms that drift with water currents and, like land plants, use carbon dioxide, release oxygen and convert minerals to a form animals can use.

**plankton**

A group of marine organisms including single-celled and multi-celled organisms.

**silverfish**

A 5 cm long fish that is especially common in the Ross Sea.

**species**

(Abbreviation sp. or spp.) A division used in the Linnean system of classification or taxonomy. A group of living organisms that can interbreed to produce viable offspring.

**zooplankton**

Tiny shrimp-like animals that drift with water currents.

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