

It's Alive or Is It? Definitions

Definitions adopted from: Dictionary.com - The world's favorite online English dictionary! (n.d.). Retrieved June 24, 2016, from <http://www.dictionary.com/>

1. **Dichotomous Key:** a key used to identify a plant or animal in which each stage presents descriptions of two distinguishing characteristics, with a direction to another stage in the key, until the species is identified
2. **Metabolism:** the sum of the physical and chemical processes in an organism by which its material substance is produced, maintained, and destroyed, and by which energy is made available.
3. **Aerobic:** (relating to an organism or tissue) requiring the presence of air or free oxygen for life.
4. **Anaerobic:** (relating to an organism or tissue) living in the absence of air or free oxygen.
5. **Cell:** a usually microscopic structure containing nuclear and cytoplasmic material enclosed by a semipermeable membrane and, in plants, a cell wall; the basic structural unit of all organisms.
6. **Energy:** The capacity of a physical system to do work.
7. **Evolution:** change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by such processes as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift.
8. **Adaptation:** a. any alteration in the structure or function of an organism or any of its parts that results from natural selection and by which the organism becomes better fitted to survive and multiply in its environment.

B. a form or structure modified to fit a changed environment.

C. the ability of a species to survive in a particular ecological niche, especially because of alterations of form or behavior brought about through natural selection.
9. **Abiotic:** of or characterized by the absence of life or living organisms.
10. **Biotic:** pertaining to life.
11. **Homeostasis:** the tendency of a system, especially the physiological system of higher animals, to maintain internal stability, owing to the coordinated response of its parts to any situation or stimulus that would tend to disturb its normal condition or function.