

# VOCABULARY LIST



Despite its self-healing qualities, the **axolotl** is an endangered species.



Look! No wrinkles! **Hydras** don't get old!



The **three-banded panther worm** can regrow its head!



The acorn worm is a **hemichordate**.

**axolotl** (*noun*): a type of salamander that lives in the mountain lakes of Mexico and the western U.S. Axolotls are commonly 9 to 12 inches long and can regrow limbs.

**blueprint** (*noun*): a detailed plan of how to do something.

**cartilage** (*noun*): a tough but flexible tissue that covers the ends of long bones at a joint and gives shape and support to other parts of the body, such as ears, nose, and windpipe.

**circulatory system** (*noun*): a network consisting of blood, blood vessels, and the heart. Among its various roles, this network delivers nutrients to every cell in the body.

**digestive system** (*noun*): the body system that breaks down food, absorbs nutrients, and gets rid of solid food waste.

**DNA** (*noun*): the molecule found in cells that carries instructions for cell structure and processes in the

body. DNA contains genes that are passed on from parents to offspring and gives living things their inherited characteristics. The letters DNA stand for deoxyribonucleic acid.

**gene** (*noun*): a small section of DNA that contains the instructions for making a specific protein. Proteins control the processes that occur in the body's cells.

**hydra** (*noun*): a small invertebrate organism about one inch long that lives in fresh water. Its body is a hollow cylinder with a mouth and tentacles at the top. Hydras do not appear to age and have an amazing ability to regrow their bodies.

**hemichordate** (*noun*): a small wormlike invertebrate found along the shores of the Caribbean and other warm waters. It can regrow a body part within a few days of amputation.

**keloid** (*noun*): a thick scar resulting from excessive growth of scar tissue.

**nervous system** (*noun*): a network which transmits signals between the brain and the rest of the body, including internal organs. The nervous system's activity controls the ability to move, breathe, see, think, and more.

**planarian** (*noun*): a type of flatworm common to many parts of the world, living in both saltwater and freshwater ponds and rivers. Planarians can regrow any part of their bodies after amputation.

**regeneration** (*noun*): regrowth after being lost or damaged (particularly forming new animal or plant tissue).

**statistics** (*noun*): a field of study that concerns the collection, organization, displaying, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data.

**three-banded panther worm** (*noun*): a small organism that can regrow any missing body part and named for its three stripes and its carnivorous appetite for live prey.

## EXPERIMENT CORNER

### EXPERIMENT VOCABULARY

**independent variable** (*noun*): the variable that is changed or controlled in a scientific experiment. It represents the cause or reason for an outcome.

**dependent variable** (*noun*): the variable in an experiment that is being measured or tested. The dependent variable responds to the independent variable.

**control group** (*noun*): the group in an experiment that doesn't experience the independent variable. Scientists can compare the control group to the experiment group to see the independent variable's effects.

### VOCABULARY IN ACTION: SAMPLE RESEARCH QUESTION

**How do air temperatures cooler than room temperature impact plant growth (height) during germination?**

For this experiment, scientists will adjust the independent variable of air temperature to see what effect it has on the dependent variable of plant height. They will create three experimental groups allowing planted seeds to germinate at 20°F, 40°F, and 60°F. The scientists will also create a control group where seeds are allowed to germinate at standard room temperature (72°F). The control group helps scientists to measure experiment results and determine whether the air temperature (independent variable) does indeed impact plant height (dependent variable).