

Definitions:

Aquatic environment: A water-based habitat where organisms live, such as oceans, lakes, or rivers.

Autotomy: When an animal purposely drops a body part (like a lizard losing its tail) to escape danger.

Bioluminescence: Light produced by a living organism through a chemical reaction inside its body.

Counter-illumination: A camouflage trick where animals glow on their underside to match the light from above, making them harder to see from below.

Courtship: Behaviors animals use to attract a mate, such as dances, displays, or sounds.

Diet-based light: Light produced because an animal eats glowing organisms and keeps the chemicals inside its body.

Enzyme: A special protein that speeds up chemical reactions in living things.

Exoskeleton: A hard outer covering that supports and protects an animal's body, like a crab's shell or an insect's armor.

Host: An organism that provides a home or resources for another organism living on or inside it.

Luciferase: The enzyme that helps create bioluminescent light by speeding up the glowing chemical reaction.

Luciferin: The molecule that reacts with oxygen (with help from luciferase) to produce bioluminescent light.

Mass spawning event: When huge numbers of marine animals release eggs and sperm into the water at the same time.

Molecule: A group of atoms bonded together; the smallest unit of a chemical compound.

Mutation: A change in an organism's DNA that can create new traits.

School (of fish): A large group of fish swimming together in a coordinated way.

Self-made light: Light an organism produces using its own body's chemicals.

Species: A group of organisms that can reproduce with one another and share similar traits.

Symbiotic light: Light produced because an organism hosts glowing bacteria that live inside or on it.

Symbiotic relationship: A close relationship between two different species where at least one benefits.

Terrestrial environment: A land-based habitat where organisms live, such as forests, deserts, or grasslands.