

Lesson: Why do you have to clean a fish tank but not a pond?

algae	tiny living things in water that produce their own food, like plants do
atmosphere	the air that surrounds a planet
bacteria	an organism that is usually a decomposer; some cause illness
carbon	an important material that exists in the air, soil, and all living things on Earth
carbon cycle	the process of carbon moving through living things and the environment
carbon dioxide	a type of gas that plants sometimes take in and that animals release when they breathe
consumer	a living thing that eats other living things
cycle	a set of events that repeats in the same order over and over
decomposer	a living thing that can break down dead living things
ecosystem	all the living things that interact with each other and their environment in one place
fungus	a living thing that is a decomposer and has spores, such as a mold or mushroom
matter	anything that takes up space; can be in different forms such as solid, liquid, or gas
model	a pretend version of something that scientists use when the real thing is too big, small, or complicated to work with

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nutrient	a substance that living things need to grow and stay healthy
organism	any living thing
oxygen	a type of gas that animals use to breathe and that plants release
phytoplankton	tiny, floating living things in water that are smaller than algae and produce their own food, like plants do
producer	a living thing that makes its own food
system	a group of things that affect each other and function as a whole