

## [Glossary](#) [1]

### **adaptation**

Physical and behavioural changes over time to fit new environments or conditions.

### **biodiversity**

Many different types of plants and animals.

### **braided river**

River made up of interconnecting channels that divide and then come back together.

### **catchment**

The entire area from which drainage water is received by a body of water such as a river or swamp.

### **ecosystem**

A community of organisms together with the environment that they inhabit and depend on.

### **endemic**

Plants and animals that live only in New Zealand.

### **ephemeral**

Lasting for only a short period of time.

### **fertilizer**

Substance added to soil to increase its ability to support plant growth.

### **food chain**

An arrangement of organisms in a community according to which organism is eaten or eats another. Food chains always start with a plant (or plants).

### **food web**

A system of food chains linked to one another.

## **Glossary**

Published on LEARNZ (<http://www.learnz.org.nz>)

---

### **groundwater**

Water found beneath the surface of the land.

### **habitat**

Living place of plant or animal.

### **inter-montane**

Lying between mountains.

### **invertebrate**

Any animal that does not have a spinal cord at any stage of its life such as worms, insects, spiders, crustaceans and molluscs.

### **kettle hole**

Bowl-shaped hollow in the loose rocks that have been left by a melting glacier.

### **migration/migrate**

A seasonal journey from one region to another.

### **niche**

How an organism makes a living. It describes things such as an organism's life history, its habitat, its position in a food chain and food web and its geographic range. No two species can occupy the same niche in the same environment for a long time.

### **nutrients**

Elements or compounds essential as raw materials to sustain life.

### **peat**

Accumulation of partially decomposed remains of plants and animals.

### **pollution**

The presence of unwanted matter or energy (heat, noise, etc.) that have harmful effects on living or non-living matter.

### **riparian**

Situated or taking place along or near the bank of a river.

## **Glossary**

Published on LEARNZ (<http://www.learnz.org.nz>)

---

### **sediment**

Material, originally suspended in a liquid, that settles at the bottom of the liquid when it is left standing for a long time.

Material eroded from rocks that is transported by water, wind, or ice and deposited elsewhere.

### **sustainable**

Using natural resources without destroying the ecological balance of an area.

### **tarn**

Small mountain lake.

**Source URL:** <http://www.learnz.org.nz/wetlandbiodiversity181/glossary>

### **Links**

[1] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/wetlandbiodiversity181/glossary>