

## [Glossary](#) [1]

The glossary below consists of terms used in the [standard background pages](#) [2] and [easy background pages](#) [3].

### **biodiversity**

The number and variety of living things found within a region. Made from the two words 'biological' and 'diversity'.

### **conservation**

Looking after natural resources such as trees, water, soil, etc for future generations.

### **ecosystem**

A community of living things and the environment in which they live.

### **endemic**

Species found only in New Zealand e.g. kiwi.

### **environment**

All the external factors influencing the life and activities of people, plants, and animals e.g. other animals and plants, water, soils, weather, daylight.

### **genus**

Set of closely related species (plural = genera).

### **habitat**

The natural home of a plant or animal.

### **hammer-mark bark**

The pattern on kauri trucks caused by bark flaking off, believed to be an adaptation to reduce the competition from climbing plants.

### **humus**

Dark organic material in soils produced by rotting plant and animal material.

### **introduced species**

## **Glossary**

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A plant or animal that has been brought by people to an area where it did not naturally live.

### **litter**

Surface layer of the forest floor.

### **microbe**

Microscopic organism.

### **native species**

An animal or plant that is naturally found in that area.

### **nutrients**

The chemicals and minerals that are used by plants to grow from its roots to the leafy canopy.

### **organism**

An individual form of life, such as a plant, animal, bacterium, protist or fungus.

### **population**

All the members of a species living in the same area and able to breed together.

### **spores**

Reproductive cells - like seeds.

### **sustainability**

Acting in ways that help protect the environment, people, and the planet.

**Source URL:** <https://www.learnz.org.nz/kauri182/glossary>

### **Links**

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[2] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/kauri182/bg-standard>

[3] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/kauri182/bg-easy>