Arthropod Glossary

appendage parts attached to the main body like claws and antennae

antenna one of two long sensory organs at front of arthropods such as insects and crustaceans

(antennae: two or more)

arachnid arthropod in class Arachnida; predatory or parasitic animals that have 8 legs, such as spiders,

scorpions, and ticks

arthropod animal in phylum Arthropoda that includes animals with exoskeletons and jointed appendages;

includes over 85% of known animal species

biomimicry design and creation of products, materials, and/or systems inspired by biological organisms

chitin a substance that provides a tough, protective covering; similar to keratin, the substance that

human hair and nails are made from

crustacean an arthropod in subphylum Crustacea that includes lobsters, crayfish, crabs, and shrimp

detritus dead material broken down by bacteria, fungi, and many arthropods

gills internal feathery organs in marine/aquatic arthropods (as well as fish) used to extract oxygen

from the water

exoskeleton hard external covering of various animals, including arthropods, that provides attachment for

muscles and protects the animal from drying out and injury

evolution process by which organisms change over time through **natural selection**

insect arthropod in class Insecta; insects comprise 75% of known animal species

metamorphosis

dramatic change in structure and lifestyle a larva undergoes when it becomes an adult. When an arthropod passes through specific developmental stages during molting, it is said to be metamorphosing. For example, an arthropod like a dragonfly can start life in a pond as a swimming larva and then metamorphose into a completely different looking, winged adult.

larva free-living, immature stage in the life cycle of many animals (such as arthropods); often very

different in appearance from adult stage and usually incapable of reproduction

marine found in or related to the sea

molting in arthropods, the periodic process by which the exoskeleton is discarded and replaced by a

new, larger one that allows the animal to grow

myriapod

arthropod in subphylum Myriapoda that includes centipedes and millipedes

natural selection

process in which organisms better adapted to their environment survive to produce more

offspring

pollination process by which pollen (grains that contain male reproductive cells) is transferred to the female

structure in plants, thereby enabling fertilization and sexual reproduction

segmented the body is made up of a basic body compartment and the body gets longer by adding more

compartments. Like a classic train with its engine and caboose, segmented animals have

repeating segments between specialized front and back compartments

terrestrial found on or related to land

trilobite arthropod from extinct group found in fossil record from about 521 million years ago until about

252 million years ago; diverse species were scavengers, predators, and filter feeders