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# Pathogen

An organism that causes disease

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# Saprophyte

An organism that feeds on dead matter

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# Parasite

An organism that feeds on a living host

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# Aerobic organism

An organism that requires oxygen

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# Anaerobic organism

An organism that does not require oxygen

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## Steady state

A state in which members of a population die as quickly as new members are born

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## Exponential growth

Population growth that is unhindered because of the abundance of resources for an ever-increasing population

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## Logistic growth

Population growth that is controlled by limited resources

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## Conjugation

A temporary union of two organisms for the purpose of DNA transfer

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## Plasmid

A small, circular section of extra DNA that confers one or more traits to a bacterium and can be reproduced separately from the main bacterial genetic code

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# Transformation

The transfer of a DNA segment from a nonfunctional donor cell to that of a functional recipient cell

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# Transduction

The process in which infection by a virus results in DNA being transferred from one bacterium to another

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# Endospore

The DNA and other essential parts of a bacterium coated with several hard layers

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# Strains

Organisms from the same species that have markedly different traits

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