

# Vocabulary



**behavior** something an organism does  
You must learn some behaviors, such as tying your shoelaces. You are born with other behaviors, such as pulling your hand away from a hot stove.

**cellular respiration** the process of releasing energy from nutrients  
Cellular respiration is a chemical process that breaks down particles of nutrients. It takes place in an organism's cells.

**invertebrate** an animal that does not have a backbone  
Earthworms and ants are invertebrates.

**respiration** the process of breathing in air to get oxygen and breathing out waste gases

Respiration is a physical process of pumping gases in and out of the body. It takes place in the gills of fish and the lungs of humans.

**vertebrate** an animal that has a backbone

A backbone gives an animal support so it can grow large. A backbone also allows an animal to move easily.