

Fossil fuels Fuels such as coal, oil, and gas that have been formed by the alteration and decomposition of substances from previous geologic time.

Free oxygen Oxygen that is not combined with any other elements.

Fungi Kingdom containing organisms with eukaryotic cells and characteristics similar to plants with the important exception that fungi lack chlorophyll (many feed on dead organic matter). Examples are yeasts, molds, and mushrooms.

Galaxy A portion of space in which clusters, stars, dust, and gas are bound together by gravitational attraction.

Gene A unit of inheritance that codes for a specific protein. (See DNA).

Genetic potential The concept that life forms contain within their gene pool the capacity to produce offspring with differing characteristics.

Glouons A massless, neutral particle that binds together the ultimate particles of matter such as quarks.

Granite Light-colored igneous rock, mainly quartz and feldspar, formed when certain types of magma solidify underground.

Gravitational heating Heating caused by the force of friction, as occurred during the Earth's early history when heavier particles moved toward the center of the Earth and slid past the lighter particles moving toward the crust.

Greenhouse effect The heating of the atmosphere by the absorption of infrared energy re-emitted from the Earth's surface.

Half-life The average time required for one-half of a given sample of particles or nuclei to decay.

Herbivorous To eat or live on vegetation.

Hominid Popular form of Hominidae, the family to which humans belong. Hominids generally include bipedal fossil primates such as Australopithecus and Homo.

Hominidae The family that includes all Homo and Australopithecus species but excludes the apes.

Hominoid A member of the superfamily or group (Hominoidea) of the primate order. Includes both apes and man.

Homo The genus in which humans belong. Anthropologists also include *erectus* and generally *habilis* in this genus.

Homo erectus A hominid that lived from about one and one half million years ago to about 300,000 years ago.

Homo habilis A hominid that lived about two million years ago, at the same time as the australopithecines.

Homo sapiens Biologically modern man. This species includes two subspecies: *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* (Neanderthal man), and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (fully modern man).

Homo sapiens sapiens The subspecies to which modern humans belong. Includes Cro-Magnon humans who appeared 40,000 to 35,000 years ago because they were anatomically identical to modern humans.

Hydrocarbons An organic chemical compound made up of carbon and hydrogen atoms arranged in chains or rings.

Hydrogen fusion The combining of the nuclei of hydrogen to yield the nuclei of helium with the mass deficit in the reaction appearing as energy.

Hydrologic cycle The cyclical movement of water from the oceans to the atmosphere, through rain to the surface, through runoff and groundwater to streams, and then back to the oceans.

Igneous Formed by rapid or slow solidification from a molten state.

Impermeable Having characteristics that greatly retard or prevent fluids from moving through.