

Respiratory System Vocabulary

- Respiration: The release of energy in cells by the combination of food and oxygen.
- Gills: Organs used by water animals to obtain oxygen from the water.
- Spiracles: Holes along the abdomen of insects used to take in oxygen.
- Carbon dioxide: A gaseous waste product of respiration which is exhaled from animals.
- Mucus: A sticky substance produced by the nose to moisten the inhaled air and trap dust and bacteria.
- Cilia: Microscopic hair-like structures that help move mucus and other substances in the respiratory track.
- Esophagus: Tube leading from the mouth to the stomach.
- Trachea: Tube that leads from the lungs to the throat.
- Epiglottis: A flap that covers the trachea while food is swallowed; this prevents food from going into the trachea and lungs.
- Larynx: The part of the throat that contains the voice box or vocal cords.
- Bronchi: The main branches of the respiratory tract leading into the lungs.
- Alveoli: Tiny air sacs at which gas exchange takes place in the lungs.
- Diaphragm: A muscle on the underside of the lungs; when it contracts and relaxes, it sets up the conditions of low and high air pressure that permit air to be inhaled and exhaled from the lungs.