**Animal Development Lab terms**

**Animal pole**: The part of the surface of an egg or ovum having the least yolk, in which is found the most metabolically active protoplasm of the embryo.

**Archenteron**: The endoderm lined cavity formed during the gastrulation process, which develops into the digestive tract of the animal.

**Blasocoel**: The fluid-filled cavity that forms in the center of the blastula embryo.

**Blastopore**: The external opening of the cavity (archenteron) of the gastrula.

**Blastula**: A hollow ball of cells produced by cleavage of a fertilized ovum.

**Cleavage**: The succession of rapid cell divisions without growing during early embryonic development, which converts the zygote into a ball of cells.

**Differentiation**: To become specialized, as with cells during development that become ordered into different tissues and organs.

**Ectoderm**: The outermost of the three primary germ layers in animal embryos, which gives rise to the outer covering and nervous system.

**Endoderm**: The innermost of the three primary germ layers in animal embryos, which lines the aerchenteron and gives rise to liver, pancreas, lungs and the lining of the digestive tract.

**Gastrula**: The two-layered, cup-shaped embryonic stage which contains the endoderm and ectoderm.

**Mesoderm**: The middle primary germ layer of an early embryo, which develops into the notochord, the lining of the coelom, muscles, skeleton, gonads, kidneys, and most of the circulatory system.

**Neurala**: stage during animal development in which neural groove and neural crest forms.

**Vegetal pole**: The part of an egg’s surface located opposite the animal pole and usually containing the principle mass of yolk.

**Yolk**: The part of any animal ovum or egg cell, which serves for the nutrition of the embryo together with the protoplasmic substances from which the embryo is developed.

**Yolk plug**: The food-laden cells from the vegetal pole which are surrounded by the blastopore.