



Terms and Vocabulary Words

Adaptation -- A characteristic that enables a living thing to survive in its environment.

Biome -- One of Earth's large ecosystems, with its own kind of climate, soil, plants, and animals.

Community -- All the populations living in an area.

Ecology -- The study of how living things and their environment interact.

Ecosystem -- All the living/non-living things in an area and their interactions with each other.

Food Chain -- The path of the energy in food from one organism to another.

Fossil -- Any remains or imprint of living things of the past.

Geology -- Study of the Earth.

Habitat -- The area in which an organism lives.

Herbivore -- An animal that eats plants, algae, and other producers.

Igneous Rock -- A rock form when magma cools down and hardens.

Metamorphic Rock -- Rocks changed by high temperatures and great pressure.

Mutualism -- A relationship between two kinds of organisms that benefits both.

Niche -- The role an organism has in its ecosystem.

omnivore -- Feeds on plants and animals.

Predator -- A living thing that hunts other living things for food.

Rodent -- A small gnawing mammal.

Sedimentary Rock -- Rocks created by smaller pieces of rock buried and pressed together.

Species -- A class of individuals with common attributes.

Water cycle -- The continuous movement of water between Earth's surface and the air, changing from liquid to gas to liquid.

Composition -- Describes everything that is part of an ecosystem.

Biotic -- Something that is living or was once alive.

Abiotic -- Everything that is not living.

Vermicomposting -- Another name for worm composting.

Landfill -- A facility operated by a city or county government that is designed to help us dispose of different types of waste.

Dump -- A random spot where people go to leave objects that they do not want.

Evaporation -- The drying up or rising of water vapor into the Earth's atmosphere.

Condensation -- When water vapor in the air gets cold and turns back into a liquid.

Precipitation -- The water that has been collected in the atmosphere until there is so much, it falls back to Earth again.

Succession -- Changes that occur in an ecosystem over a long period of time.

Bat -- A nocturnal animal which is the only mammal with wings.

Bison -- Animals that provided many necessities of life for the Native Americans, such as meat, hides for shelter, clothing, and even tools, and ornamentation from the bones.

Black Bear -- An omnivore who hibernates in the winter and breeds during the summer.

Bobcat -- A predator identified by its classic bobbed-tail, tufted ears, and long legs.

Frog -- An amphibian with smooth skin and long limbs for jumping.

Jaguar -- A member of the cat family whose prey consists of small mammals and deer.

Population -- All the members of one species in an area.

Rattlesnake -- A reptile that helps keep the rodent population under control.

Shovelnose Sturgeon -- A well-known producer of caviar and can grow to be North America's largest freshwater fish.

Toad -- An amphibian with warty skin and short limbs.

White Pelican -- A cooperative hunter who floats quietly along, paddling with its large webbed feet and scooping up fish in its enormous beak.