

VOCABULARY LIST

Words that appear throughout the text in bold print are words defined on the vocabulary list.

Absorb	Take in or soak up a liquid
Acidity	The quality of being acid or sour (having a pH of less than 7)
Acid Rain	Air pollution mixed with vapor causing acids that mix with precipitation
Adaptation	A change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment
Adhesion	The attraction of water for other solid objects (such as glass % plastic) at the molecular level.
Algae	Tiny, aquatic, one-celled plants
Alkaline	Non-acidic or neutral The quality of substance to be basic, i.e. having a pH of greater than 7
Amphibians	A cold-blooded vertebrate animals such as frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders
Aquatic	Of the water
Aquifer	Underground layers of sand, gravel or rock that hold large amounts of water
Atmosphere	The air surrounding the earth
Benthic	Pertaining to plants and animals that are found in or on the bottom sediments of a water body
Best Management Practices (BMP)	Solutions that keep pollutants from entering water bodies such as silt fences, grass and trees, catch ponds, and litter cleanup
Blue Gill	A type of sun fish
Buffer Zone	A strip of trees and bushes planted along streams and rivers

Camouflage	An animal's natural coloring or form that enables it to blend in with its surroundings
Carnivore	An animal that feeds on flesh
Catch-Water Basin	A small basin that usually catches rainwater
Cohesion	The molecular attraction by which the particles of a substance such as water are united throughout
Complex Metamorphosis	The complete change in form that juvenile insects will undergo before taking an adult form
Compost	Decayed organic material used as a plant fertilizer
Condensation	The change from a vapor (such as water vapor) to a liquid usually due to a reduction in temperature
Confining Layer	Layer of clay or chalk in the earth that prevents surface contaminants from entering an aquifer
Conserve	Protect from harm or destruction
Conservation	Preservation, protection or restoration of the natural environment
Consumer	One who uses something, or one who eats
Contaminant	An impurity such as a pollutant
Contaminate	Make impure
Cullet	Recycled, broken, or waste glass used in glass making
Debris	litter scattered remains of something
Decomposer	An organism or invertebrate that breaks down organic matter
Dissolve	To come apart; to pass into solution as sugar in water
Dissolution	The process of forming a liquid solution
Dissolved Oxygen	The concentration of oxygen dissolved in water
Ecology	The Branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings
Ecosystem	A Biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment

Emission	A Substance discharged into the environment
Endangered	A Species seriously at risk of extinction
Environment	Surroundings including air, land, forests, and water
Erosion	The process where soil is washed away by rain or carried away by wind
Estuary	An area of shallow water which is a mixture of salt water and fresh water near the shore of an ocean
Evaporation	The process of converting a liquid into a vapor such as water evaporating from a pond and joining the atmosphere as water vapor
Extinction	No longer existing
Fertilizer	Natural or man-made materials worked into the soil as plant food
Filter	To purify, to remove objectionable material
Filtration	The process of purifying water
Food Web	The connection between organisms that feed upon each other
Gravity	A force that attracts a body toward the center of the earth
Ground Water	Water under the ground that fills spaces between particles of sand, gravel, and cracks in rock
Habitat	The environment where an animal lives - swamp, forest, ocean, etc.
Hazardous Waste	Dangerous pollutants
Herbivore	An animal that feeds on plants
Hibernate	To spend the winter in a dormant state
Hydrologic Cycle	Water Cycle (see water cycle on next page)
Hypothesis	A proposed explanation made on the basis of limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation
Impact	To have an effect on something
Impaired	A waterway that has been made unhealthy by pollutants
Impervious	Not permitting penetration or passage

Impurity	A substance that contaminates something
Indicators	A thing of a fact used to show the level or state of something
Indicator Species	An animal or plant species that can be used to infer conditions in a particular habitat
Insectivore	A plant or animal that eats insects
Invertebrate	An animal lacking a backbone
Irrigate	To water a particular area of land
Landfill	A place to dispose of waste material by burying it between layers of soil to build up low lying land
Land Trust	An organization of people that acquire and protect land or "green spaces" for the benefit of the public
Larva	The active immature form of an insect
Leachate	A solution resulting from the action of water percolating through another substance
Litter	Trash on the found or in the water
Macroinvertebrate	A small animal or "water bug" without a backbone that can be seen with the naked eye - often used as an indicator of water quality
Manure	Animal waste used to fertilize land
Marine	Of, found it, or produced by the sea or ocean
Metamorphosis	The process of transformation from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinct stages used to describe insect development
Migratory	A bird, animal, or fish that moves from on region or habitat to another
Molecules	The smallest particle of a substance that retains the properties of that substance and contain, 2 or more items, as a H ₂ O water molecule
Monitor	To check regularly

Mulch	Organic matter loosely laid over soil to hold soil and keep soil
Natural Resources	Natural substances we use like plants. Air, and soil
Non-Point Source Pollution	Contamination coming from a non-localized source
Non-Porous	Not allowing a liquid to pass through
Non-Renewable Natural Resource	Natural substances that cannot be replaced
Nutrient	A substance that provides a nourishment essential for the growth and the maintenance of life
Nymph	An immature form of an insect that does not change form greatly as it grows
Organic	Natural, such as a fertilizer of plant or animal origin
Organism	Any living being
Origin	The place from which something comes
Passerines	Perching birds
Percolate	To seep through a permeable substance as water soaking into the ground
Pervious	Admitting of passage or entrance
Pesticide	A chemical used to kill insects or rodents
pH	The acidity or alkalinity of a solution
Photosynthesis	The process by which plants use sunlight to make food
Point Source	A localized and stationary pollution source
Pollination	The process of pollen being deposited on a flower that provides fertilization
Polluted	Contaminated by chemical or organic waste, litter, etc
Polluted Runoff	Storm water wash with pollutants
Pollution	Chemical or organic waste, litter, etc. on the land or in the water
Pollution Intolerant Species	Organisms that cannot live in an impaired water body

Pollution Tolerant Species	Organisms that can live in an impaired water body
Population	All the inhabitants of a particular species or group living in a particular area
Porous	Permeable, allowing a liquid to pass through
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet or hail
Predator	An animal that naturally preys on others
Predict	Guess
Prey	And animal that is hunted and killed by another for food
Producers	In the food web, the organisms that typically use photosynthesis to make products others consume
Properties	Qualities like personality traits
Pupae	An insect in its immature form between larva and adult
Purify Recycle	To make clean
Regulations	To reuse
Reservoir	Rules, laws
Ridge	A stored body of water or usually man-made lake
River Pool	Elevated places of land
Runoff	Deep, slow moving water at the edges of a rive
Saturation Scavenger	Rainwater traveling over the land after a storm; storm water

Sediment	Matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid
Septic System	A treatment method for processing human household sewer waste on the landowners property
Shed	Drain
Silt Fence	A fence of strong fabric placed around construction sites to reduce erosion
Simple Metamorphosis	Insects look much like what they will look like as adults
Solution	An evenly dispersed (homogenous) mixture such as the result of dissolving sugar in water
Species	A group of similar living organisms usually separated reproductively from other organisms
Stream	A body of water that flows across the earth's surface via a current and is contained within a narrow channel and banks
Stream Order	A common classification system used to study and measure the size of the world's waterways; the further downstream the stream is, the higher the order
Stomata	Microscopic pores or usually holes on the underside of leaves from which gaseous interchange take place
Storm water	Surface water runoff from precipitation
Substances	Matter - including chemicals, soil, motor fluids, etc.
Surface Tension	The property of the surface of a liquid that allows it resist an external force (i.e. gravity), due to the cohesive nature of the (water) molecules
Surface Water	Water located on the earth's surface
Topography	The curves, rises and dips of land often represented on a relief map

Toxin	Poison that is usually from a bacterial origin
Transpiration	The process of trees releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves
Tributary	A stream that flows into a main stem river; does not flow directly into the ocean
Turbid	Clousy, opaque or thick with suspended mater
Urban	City
Valley	Low areas of land
Water Cycle	Water moving through the environment among plants, animals, the atmosphere, water bodies, land and underground aquifers. (evaporation, transpiration, precipitation, overland flow, percolation, etc.)
Water Quality	The condition or state of water in regard to the amount of additional substances contained in it
Water Quality Steward	A volunteer citizen who helps keep water clean
Watershed	All the area of land that drains to a particular point along a stream river or other water body; precipitation collector
Water Table	The level below which the land is saturated with water; the top surface of water in an aquifer
Wetland	An area that is wet most of the year, grows wetland plants and has soil that is saturated with water (hydric soil) - marshes, swamps, bogs, bayous, etc.
Xeriscape	Landscape designed to minimize the need for watering