

Vocabulary List



- **axis** - an imaginary straight line around which an object spins. Sentence: Earth spins on its axis once every 24 hours.
- **biodiversity** - the number of different kinds of living things in an area. The more variety among different kinds of living things, the higher the diversity.
- **biologist** - an expert in or student of the area of study concerning biological sciences.
- **centrifugal force** - The apparent force which seems to pull an object outward when the object is spun around in a circle.
- **detritus** - dead plant and animal material that has decomposed into small bits and is found suspended in water, it is an important source of food for some animals.
- **dimorphic** - where different sexes of the same species have different forms. For example, the Northern shoveler is dimorphic, the male has a green head, and black and white body, and the female is brown. Even though they are the same species they appear different. There are examples of this in animal and plant species.
- **ecotone** - a transitional area of vegetation between two different plant communities, such as a marsh and an upland.
- **ecosystem** - a system made up of a community of living things and the physical environment with which they interact.
- **endangered species** - a species in danger of extinction.
- **endemic** - a species that is found in a specific geographical area. For example, the salt marsh harvest mouse is endemic to the marshes of the San Francisco Bay, it is not found in any other parts of the world.
- **extinct** - an organism that no longer exists.
- **force** - A force is a push or pull upon an object resulting from the object's interaction with another object.
- **friction** - the resistance of motion when one object rubs against another. Anytime two objects rub against each other, they cause friction. Friction works against the motion and acts in the opposite direction.
- **gravity** - Gravity or gravitational forces are forces of attraction. It's like the Earth pulling on you and keeping you on the ground. That pull is gravity at work. Every object in the universe that has mass exerts a gravitational pull, or force, on every other mass. The size of the pull depends on the masses of the objects.



- **habitat** - the arrangement of food, water, shelter, and space suitable to an organism's needs.
- **hydrology** - scientific study of movement, distribution and management of water.
- **invasive** - describes a plant or animal species which is not native to an area. Usually, it is called "invasive" because it outcompetes native plants or animals, leaving them without enough habitat in which to live.
- **lunar day** - A lunar day is the period of time for Earth's Moon to complete one rotation on its axis with respect to the Sun. Due to tidal locking, it is also the time the Moon takes to complete one orbit around Earth and return to the same phase.
- **net force** - sum of forces acting on a particular body or object
- **nocturnal** - active during the night.
- **pollination** - the transfer of pollen to allow for fertilization.
- **predators** - an animal that hunts, catches or eats other animals.
- **red tide** - is a common name used for harmful algal blooms. This occurs when large concentrations of algae grow out of control in a large area, the algae produces toxins which can be harmful to people and aquatic species. To learn more check out this website at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/redtide.html>
- **salinity** - related to the amount of dissolved salts in the water.
- **scientific name** - a name used by scientists, using the taxonomic name of an organism that uses the genus and species.
- **species** - refers to the group of similar organisms that can reproduce.
- **tide** - the "rising and falling" of the ocean primarily due to the motion of the earth and the sun.
- **vegetation** - refers to the plant life in a ecosystem community.
- **watershed** - a region that drains into a creek, river, ocean, or other body of water.