

VOCABULARY LIST

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

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| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| Impurity | A substance that contaminates something |
| Indicators | A thing or 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 A plant or animal |
| Insectivore | 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 ground 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 in, 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 one region or habitat to another |
| Molecules | The smallest particle of a substance that retains the properties of that substance and contains, 2 or more atoms, as a H ₂ O water molecule |
| Monitor | To check regularly |

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| 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 awash 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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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 | Cloudy, opaque or thick with suspended matter |
| 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 |