

**Aquatic:** Living or found in or near water. An example of an aquatic plant living in the water is a cattail. Aquatic plants can filter and clean water in a wetland.

**Bottled Water:** Water found in a sealed plastic or glass bottle, and sold in a store.

**Conservation:** The act of protecting nature – water, plants and wildlife.

**Creek / Stream:** A small, narrow river.

**Drainage Basin:** An area drained by a river system. A drainage basin acts like a funnel collecting all the water within the area covered by the basin and channeling it into a waterway. An example is the Great Lakes drainage basin.

**Ecology:** The study of the relationships between living organisms (plants, animals) and their environment.

**Ecological Services:** The benefits of healthy ecosystems, such as purification of water and air, pollination of plants, and the decomposition of waste.

**Ecosystem:** A collection of living things and the environment in which they live.

**Fertilizer:** Any substance, such as manure or a mixture of chemicals, added to soil to increase its productivity.

**Fish:** One of a class of cold-blooded animals having scales that cover their body, and spend their life in the water.

**Food chain:** A series of organisms interrelated in their feeding habits, the smallest being fed upon by a larger one, which in turn feeds a still larger one, etc.

**Habitat:** A place that is natural for the life and growth of an organism.

**Herbicide:** A chemical substance or preparation for killing plants, especially weeds.

**Hydro:** Water. In Canada rivers are used to make hydroelectric energy.

**Insecticide:** A chemical substance or preparation for killing insects and bugs.

**Invasive Species:** A non-native species out-competes the native species in an area. This can create a monoculture, the growth of a single crop in a given area. This can have negative impacts on the ecological services in the area.

**Lake:** A body of fresh or salt water of considerable size, surrounded by land and unconnected to the sea except by rivers or streams.

**Mollusk:** An invertebrate animal living in water and often having a soft body, protected by a hard outer shell. An example is a zebra mussel.

**Native Plant:** A plant that naturally grows in a given area or region.

**Ocean:** The large body of salt water surrounding the continents or land masses, The Atlantic, Pacific, Indian and Arctic Oceans.

**Organism:** An individual form of life, such as a plant, an animal, or a fungus.

**Pesticide:** A chemical preparation used for destroying plant, fungal, or animal pests. Examples are herbicides and insecticides.

**Phosphate:** A major nutrient required for good crop nutrition and plant growth; it is highly reactive and quickly binds to other elements. It is also found in commonly used soaps. A large buildup of phosphates can remove the oxygen from natural bodies of water.

**Precipitation:** A variety of forms of water that fall from the sky to the ground. Examples of precipitation are rain, snow, sleet and hail.

**Pollutant:** Any substance, such as chemicals or waste products, that makes the air, soil, or water harmful or unsuitable.

**River:** A large natural stream of fresh water flowing along a specific course, entering into a larger body of water. For example, the Humber River flows into Lake Ontario.

**Sewer System:** The pipes that bring clean & safe tap water to a building, and the pipes that take dirty or used water away from the building for treatment.

**Tap Water:** Clean & safe water from a piped source.

**Treatment:** The use of chemical, physical, or biological agents to clean lake or raw water.

**Water Conservation:** Any valuable savings in water use, loss or waste in and around the home.

**Water Cycle:** The process, involving evaporation and condensation, by which the Earth's water circulates through the environment.

**Water Treatment Plant:** A centre that processes lake water into clean & safe drinkable water for human consumption and usages.

**Watershed:** A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is on it or under it, drains into the same river, and eventually into a larger body of water, like a lake or ocean.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant:** A centre that processes dirty water or used water into clean water that can be returned to a natural source, like a lake.

**Wetland:** A low-lying area of land that holds water naturally. Ponds, swamps, marshes, bogs and fens are examples of wetlands.