

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.