

Agriculture: The production of crops, livestock or poultry.

Amphibian: One of a class of animals that spends part of its life cycle in water and part on land. Amphibians include cold-blooded, smooth skinned vertebrates, such as frogs, toads, salamanders and newts. They are found in many different kinds of ecosystems, including deserts.

Bacteria: Unicellular, microscopic, living organisms, some of which can cause disease.

Bio: Life.

Biodiversity: The variety of life on the planet.

Bird: One of a class of warm-blooded animals having a body covered in feathers.

Climate: Climate is what we expect to happen season to season. Long-term weather pattern of a region or place.

Climate Change: The change in long-term weather patterns. Climate change can be natural, or caused by changes people have made to the land or the atmosphere.

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

Disease: Any impairment of normal physiological function affecting all or part of an organism.

Diversity: Variety.

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

Endangered Species: A species that is in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future.

Erosion: The process of land being washed away or worn away slowly by wind or water.

Fertilizer: Material added to the soil to make it more fertile.

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

Fungus and Mushrooms: Organisms that live by decomposing and absorbing organic material in which they grow.

Habitat: The area where an organism lives. An organism finds the food, water, shelter, and space that it needs to survive in this area.

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

Host Plant: A plant that is required by a species to complete their life cycle. An example is the milkweed plant, which monarch butterflies need to lay their eggs on.

Indicator Species: A species that is sensitive to negative changes in its ecosystem. An example is

a frog in a wetland.

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

Invasive Species: A non-native species that is so reproductively successful and aggressive that it can dominate an area, often to the point of becoming a monoculture. It interferes with the natural functioning and diversity of the ecosystem where it becomes established.

Invertebrate: An animal without a backbone. Invertebrates include insects, arachnids (e.g., spiders and ticks), gastropods (e.g., snails and slugs), crustaceans (e.g., crayfish and isopods), centipedes, and worms.

Leaf Litter: Leaves and organic matter found on the ground or on a still body of water.

Mammals: A warm-blooded, usually hairy animal that breathes air, gives birth to live offspring and feeds milk to its young.

Monoculture: The successful growth of one type of crop or plant in a given area or region.

Monitor: To observe and record what is happening in an ecosystem.

Native Species: A species that occurs naturally in a given area or region.

Nectar: The sugary secretion of a plant that attracts animals that pollinate the flower.

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

Outcompete: To strive to outdo another for survival. An example is when an invasive plant successfully and aggressively takes over the ecosystem of a native plant.

Pesticide: A chemical preparation used for destroying plant, fungal, or animal pests.

Photosynthesis: The process by which green plants use the energy from sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into nutrients, producing oxygen as a by-product.

Plant: Multicellular organism that produces its own food through the process of photosynthesis.

Pollinator: An animal responsible for transferring the pollen from the anthers to the stigma in a flowering plant.

Pollinator Plant: A plant with a fragrant often colourful flower that attracts animals like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to assist with pollination.

Pollination: The transfer of pollen from the anther to the stigma in a flowering plant.

Pollution: Contamination of the air, water, or soil that causes harm to human health, animal health and the environment.

Protista: An organism that has the characteristics of both plants and animals. An example is algae.

Reptile: Cold-blooded, scaly –skinned vertebrate that breathes air and lives mostly on the land. Turtles, snakes, and lizards are reptiles.

Restoration Site: A natural site where humans are helping to create habitats and maintain the area for native species.

Species: Living organisms having some common characteristics or qualities.

Urbanization: The process by which towns and villages grow into cities.

Vertebrate: An animal with a backbone and a brain enclosed in a skull.

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

