

Word	Definition
abiotic	a non-living thing
acceleration	any change in velocity (starting, stopping, changing direction)
acquired trait	a characteristic that an organism gets during its life (scar, tattoo)
air mass	a large body of air which has the same humidity and temperature throughout
air pressure	the weight of the atmosphere pressing on a certain place
anemometer	a weather instrument that measures wind speed
aquatic biome	a large scale water ecosystem
aquifer	layer of rock, gravel, or sand that collects groundwater
balanced force	forces that are equal in size but opposite in direction
barometer	a weather instrument that measures air pressure
biome	a large scale ecosystem
biotic	a living thing
blood	the fluid that is pumped by the heart; it carries oxygen and nutrients to the tissues and carries waste products away
bones	give body structure and support
brackish	a mixture of salt water and fresh water
brain	the core of the nervous system; it collects information and makes decisions
cardiovascular system	system that consists of the heart, blood, and blood vessels
carnivore	an organism that eats only meats
cells	the smallest part of a living thing that can carry out all the processes of life
characteristic	trait
chemical change	changes in matter that makes a new substance and can't be reversed
circulatory system	system that carries oxygen, food, and wastes throughout the body
cirrus	the highest forming cloud that is wispy and made of ice crystals
climate	the average weather conditions of a specific area
cloud	a collection of water droplets/ice crystals found in the air
cold front	the boundary formed when a cold air mass pushes under a warm air mass making it rise
community	all populations together in one area
condensation	the process of water vapor turning into liquid water droplets
conduction	the transfer of heat energy between things that are touching
conductor	a material in which heat can easily move through; ex: aluminum, steel
coniferous forest	a subarctic, conifer forest, biome that starts where the tundra ends. (taiga)
consumer	an organism that eats to get energy
convection	the transfer of energy by the movement of liquids or gasses
cumulonimbus	a cumulus cloud that brings rain
cumulus	a fluffy, flat bottomed, cloud
deciduous forest	a forest biome in which the main plants found are broad-leaved trees that lose their leaves in the winter. This biome has moderate temperatures, moderate amounts of rain and has seasons. This is our biome!
decomposer	an organism that breaks down the tissues of dead organisms
digestive system	system that breaks down food so it can be used by the body
dominant	strong and in control
ecosystem	a community and its physical environment
El Niño	an unusual warming of water in the Pacific Ocean
energy	the ability to make things move or change
energy pyramid	shows the amount of energy available to pass from one level of a food chain to the next
esophagus	a long tube that leads to the stomach

estuary	the place where freshwater empties into an ocean.
evaporation	the process of liquid water turning into a gas
fitness	the state of being physically fit; process to stay healthy and strong
food chain	a diagram that shows how energy moves through an ecosystem
food web	a diagram that shows the relationships between different food chains
force	a push or pull on an object
fresh water	water that is not salty
friction	a force that opposes or acts against the motion of two objects
front	the boundary between two air masses
genes	a set of instructions in human cells that determines inherited physical features
grasslands	a biome that is classified as a flat, rolling plain with many types of grasses.
gravity	a force that pulls all objects towards one another. (Best example of gravity is that all objects on our planet are pulled towards the center of the earth)
groundwater	water that is absorbed by the land (the water that is found in the land)
Gulf Stream	a warm water ocean current moving from the Caribbean Sea, past the East Coast of the US
health	the general condition of the body or mind
heart	an organ made of muscle tissue; pumps blood through vessels
heat	the energy an object has because its particles are moving
herbivore	an organism that eats only plants
heredity	the passing of traits from parents to children
humidity	the amount of moisture (water) in the air.
hygrometer	a weather instrument that measures humidity
individual	1 single organism
inherited trait	a characteristic that a living thing gets from its parents
instinct	a natural ability or action
insulator	a material in which heat cannot easily move through; ex: plastic, wood
intestines	made up of the small and large intestines that continues to break down the wastes before it leaves the body
jet stream	a fast flowing river of air found in the atmosphere that moves from west to east.
La Niña	an unusual cooling of the water in the Pacific Ocean
land breeze	a breeze that blows from the land toward the sea (during the night)
learned behavior	skill that an animal develops after it is born
life processes	the 7 things all living things do
local winds	winds that blow in certain areas such as land breezes and sea breezes
lungs	the main structures of the respiratory system
magnetism	the force of pushing or pulling between magnet poles
mass	the amount of material in an object
matter	anything that has mass and takes up space
meteorologist	a person who studies weather
motion	process of changing position
mouth	the beginning of digestion; breaks down food into smaller pieces
multi-cellular	an organism made up of more than one cell
muscular system	system that is responsible for all movement.
nerves	carry messages from inside or outside the body
nervous system	system that controls all the other body systems
newton	the unit of measure used when determining an amount of force.

nose	filters and moistens the incoming air
ocean	large body of saltwater divided by continents
ocean current	a stream of water that flows like a river through the ocean
offspring	a child in relation to their parent
omnivore	an organism that eats plants and meats
organism	a living thing
organism	a living thing
photosynthesis	the process that plants use to make sugar (food) and oxygen
physical change	changes to matter that changes how it looks
physical feature	traits you can see
physical property	the traits of an object that can be seen such as size, color, and state
population	all of one kind of organism
position	where an object is located
position	location of an object
precipitation	water that falls to the earth as hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow
predator	an organism that eats other organisms
prevailing winds/global winds	winds that blow over the whole world in the same direction
prey	an organism that is hunted
producer	an organism that uses sunlight (photosynthesis) to get energy (plants)
qualitative data	descriptive data, written in words
quantitative data	numerical data, written in numbers
radiation	the transfer of energy by electromagnetic waves
rain forest	a tropical forest biome found near the equator that receives large amounts of rain (at least 100 inches) and are typically warm and humid.
rain gauge	a weather instrument that measures the amount of rain
resemble	look similar to
respiratory system	system that takes in oxygen from the air that you breathe
runoff	water that runs downhill until it reaches a main water source
salt marsh	a community of vegetation near estuaries and sounds
salt water	water that is naturally salty (For example: oceans & seas)
scavenger	an organism that eats dead organisms
sea breeze	a breeze that blows from the sea toward the land (during the day)
skeletal system	system that is made up of 206 bones that give the body structure and support
species	a group of individuals having common attributes
speed	measure of distance over time
spinal cord	the pathway for messages between the brain and the rest of the body
spring scale	a tool used to measure force
stomach	the food is mixed with chemicals to help break it down
stratus	the lowest forming cloud that is blanket-like
structure	a system made up of interrelated parts functioning as a whole
systems of transport	pathways used to carry blood, oxygen, nutrients, and wastes throughout the body
temperature	how warm or cold something is
terrestrial biome	biomes that are mostly made of land
thermal energy	the form of energy that is created from the movement of particles (felt as heat)
thermometer	a weather instrument that measures temperature
trachea	also known as the windpipe; the tube that carries air from the throat to the lungs
traits	distinguishing characteristics
transpiration	the process of plants releasing water vapor

transport system	the way parts of the body work together to continue life and function properly
unbalanced force	when one force is greater than the other force, causing the weaker one to move
unicellular	an organism that is made up of only one cell
velocity	a measure of speed and direction
vessels	a tube in which body fluid circulates
warm front	the boundary formed when a warm air mass moves in and goes over a cool air mass
water cycle	a continuous process of how the Earth's water moves through the land and air
weather	the state of the atmosphere at a specific time and place
weather map	a map or chart that shows weather conditions for a large area
weather vane	a weather instrument that tells which direction the wind is blowing
wind	moving air
wind vane	a weather instrument that tells which direction the wind is blowing