



1. **Talons** – A claw, especially one belonging to a bird of prey.
2. **Feathers** – One of the soft and light parts of a bird that grows from the skin and covers the body. It also provides insulation and allows them to fly.
3. **Fur** – The soft thick hair that covers the bodies of certain animals (mammals) such as the bear, cat or fox.
4. **Scales** – One of the many small, hard, thin plates that cover fish, reptiles, and other animals.
5. **Camouflage** – The coloration or shape of animals that makes them hard to see against the background.
6. **Warning coloration** – Bright colors on an animal's body that lets its enemies know of its unpleasant characteristic (poison, sting, scent, etc.).
7. **Habitat** – The home of an animal or plant.
8. **Nest** – The place where an animal lays its eggs and takes care of its young.
9. **Seed dispersal** – The way seeds get from the parent plant to a new place.
10. **Seed** – A seed is a fertilized ovule containing a plant embryo. Given the appropriate growth conditions, it will become a new plant.
11. **Wind dispersal** – Blows seeds with the hair-like or wing-like structure to a new place.
12. **Water dispersal** – Carries seeds that are able to float on water going downstream.
13. **Animal dispersal** – Animal's fur or birds' feathers and feet can carry the seeds to other locations. Animals can digest the seeds and eliminate them in another location.



1. **Water Cycle** – The circulation of the earth’s water through all of its stages. The cycle of water goes from the atmosphere to the Earth and back again through the following steps: evaporation, transpiration, condensation, precipitation, percolation, runoff, and accumulation.
2. **Watershed** – The land area that captures and directs rainwater and snowmelt to a river, lake or ocean.
3. **Wetland** – An area of land with wet soil, which is rich in life. Marshes and estuaries are examples of wetland habitats.
4. **Condensation** – The changing of water from a vapor (gas or steam) into a liquid. This occurs when water vapor in the atmosphere rises, cools, contracts, and turns into small water droplets, forming clouds.
5. **Precipitation** – Water that falls from the sky in the form of rain, snow, hail, or sleet.
6. **Percolation** – When a liquid slowly passes through something that is considered a filter. Example: when water is absorbed into soil.
7. **Accumulation** – Gathering area of water including rivers, streams, oceans, and groundwater/aquifers.
8. **Transpiration** – The passage of water vapor from the leaves of plants (through stomata) in the atmosphere (air).
9. **Habitat** – The natural environment of an organism; place that is natural for the life and growth of an organism.
10. **Adaptation** – A change in behavior, structure, or habitat of a plant or animal that helps it survive.
11. **Herbivore** – An animal that eats plants. They have flat teeth for grinding the plants.
12. **Carnivore** – An animal that eats meat. The animals will have sharp teeth for tearing meat off the bone.



13. **Omnivore** – An animal that eats both plants and meat. They have sharp teeth in front and flat teeth in back.
14. **Scavenger** – An animal that feeds on dead or decaying organic material.
15. **Opportunistic Eater** – Eats whatever food is available.
16. **Predator** – An animal that hunts other animals.
17. **Prey** – An animal that is hunted by a predator.
18. **Diurnal** – A creature that is active during the day.
19. **Nocturnal** – A creature that is active during the night.
20. **Crepuscular** – A creature that is active during twilight hours – dusk and dawn.
21. **Camouflage** – An adaptation that helps a plant or animal blend in with their surroundings.
22. **Echolocation** – An adaptation that allows some animals, such as bats and dolphins, to use sound to locate objects.
23. **Olfactory Nerves** – The bundle of nerves responsible for an animal's sense of smell.
24. **Auditory Nerves** – The bundle of nerves responsible for an animal's sense of hearing.
25. **Organism** – Any living thing such as a plant or animal.
26. **Metamorphosis** – A change from an immature stage to an adult stage, sometimes in one or more stages. Example: When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.
27. **Life Cycle** – The series of changes an organism undergoes throughout its lifetime.



1. **Resourceful** - having the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties.
2. **Serrano Indians** - a Native American tribe of Southern California.
3. **Yuhaviatam** - the native language word the Serrano people used to describe themselves, meaning, "People of the Pines."
4. **Wiich** - acorn porridge: The Serrano Indians would grind acorns into flour and cooked it into a type of porridge.
5. **Kiich** - dome-shaped shelter that was formed by plant debris, woven plant strands, and mud.
6. **Mano** - (Spanish for hand) is a ground stone tool used with a *metatae* to process or grind food by hand.
7. **Metatae** - a large stone with a depression or bowl, used for grinding.
8. **Erosion**- the gradual degradation or destruction of something due to natural causes such as wind or water, or human activities such as the removal of vegetation.
9. **Weathering** – the process of breaking down substances such as rock by such forces as water, ice, chemicals, growing plants, and changing temperatures.
10. **Deposition** – the process in which sediment from erosion and weathering is relocated by forces of nature and relocated to a new place.
11. **Average**- average value in a set of numbers is the middle value, calculated by dividing the total of all the values by the number of values.
12. **Rock Cycle**- a cycle in which rocks change from one form to another in the Earth's crust.
13. **Igneous Rock**- is formed through the cooling and solidification of magma or lava.
14. **Metamorphic Rock**- is a type of rock which has been changed by extreme heat and pressure.



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15. ***Sedimentary Rock***-a compressed rock formed from fragments of many other rocks or material, initially deposited by water or air. Many of these rocks have visible layers; such as in the Grand Canyon.
16. ***Mineral***- a solid, inorganic substance of natural occurrence that make up rocks.



1. **Scientific method:** is a method of research in which a problem is identified, relevant data is gathered, a hypothesis is formulated from this data and the hypotheses is empirically tested.
2. **Food Chain** – A community of organisms where one member consumes another in a sort of chain.
Example: Caterpillar eats the plant, the frog eats the caterpillar, the snake eats the frog, and the owl eats the snake.
3. **Energy Pyramid** – The transfer of energy through various food chains.
4. **Producer** – Plant or organism that can change energy from the L.A.W.S. into food.
5. **Consumer** – Eats plants and/or animals.
6. **Decomposers** – An organism that breaks down organic matter through consumption.
7. **Fungi** – An organism that does not photosynthesize and that produces spores for reproduction.
8. **Scavenger** – Anything that feeds on leftovers from other animals or decaying matter.
9. **Biotic**- A living organism or factor that affects other living organisms.
10. **Abiotic**– Non-living (no life has existed, nor will it exist into the future) factors that affect living organisms.
11. **L.A.W.S. of Nature** – The four abiotic factors required for all life on Earth: **Light, Air, Water, and Soil** minerals.
12. **Ph (“potential hydrogen”) Test** – measures the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution to determine its relative acid or base concentration.
13. **Invertebrate** – Animal without a backbone.
14. **Vertebrate** – Animal with a backbone.
15. **Indicator Species** - A species of animal such as an invertebrate that can be used to determine the quality of the environment.
16. **Food Web** – A series of organism interactions through predator and prey activities.

17. **Algae** – An organism closely resembling plants in the order of protista.
18. **Seeds** – A seed is a fertilized ovule containing a plant embryo. Given the appropriate growth conditions, it will become a new plant.
19. **Photosynthesis** – The process through which plants use water and carbon dioxide to create their food, grow and release excess oxygen into the air.
20. **Germination** – The process where a seed sprouts and then grows and develops into a plant.
21. **Seed Dispersal** - The way that seeds move from place to place is called, “seed dispersal.”
1. Scattering and Rolling Dispersal
 2. Mechanical Propulsion Dispersal
 3. Water Dispersal
 4. Wind Dispersal
 5. Animal Dispersal
22. **Endangered** –Species is any type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever.
23. **Extinct** – If a species, or type of plant or animal dies out completely, it becomes extinct.
24. **Ecology** – Is the study of the relationships between living things and their surroundings, or environment.
25. **Ecosystem** – An ecosystem includes all of the living things (**Biotic**) in a given area, interacting with each other , and also with their non-living environments (**Abiotic**).
26. **Preservation** – The activity of protecting something from loss or danger.
27. **Human Impact** - The positive and negative ways in which humans interact with and transform the Earth.



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28. **Encroachment** - To advance beyond proper, established, or usual limits.

1. **Navigation** – the art or science of plotting, ascertaining, or directing a course.
2. **Compass** – an instrument for determining directions, as by means of a freely rotating magnetized needle that indicates magnetic north.
3. **Topographic Map** – a map that includes the relief features or surface configuration of an area.
4. **Altitude (elevation):** – The vertical height of an object above sea level.
5. **Contour** – A line drawn on a map connecting points of the same height above sea level.
6. **Declination** – Degree difference between true north and magnetic north.
7. **Inclination** – Slope
8. **Latitude** – The angular distance in degrees north or south of the equator to a point on the Earth's surface.
9. **Longitude** – The angular distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian at Greenwich to a point on the earth's surface.
10. **Aquifer** - An underground bed of saturated soil or rock that yields significant quantities of water that may be pumped to the surface for use by people, livestock or watering crops.
11. **Watershed** - The land area from which surface runoff drains into a stream channel, lake, reservoir or other body of water; also called a drainage basin.
12. **Potable** - Safe to drink
13. **Non-Potable** - water that is not of drinking quality, but can still be used for other purposes
14. **Waterborne disease** - Any illness transmitted through ingesting of or contact with water contaminated by disease-causing organisms.
15. **Pathogen** - a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.



16. Riparian Area - Land areas directly influenced by a body of water; usually have visible vegetation or other physical characteristics showing this water influence. Stream banks, lake borders and marshes are typical riparian areas.

17. Hydration – The process of providing an adequate amount of liquid to bodily tissues.

18. Insulation – A material covering that prevents or reduces the passage, transfer, or leakage of heat.

19. Altitude (elevation): – The vertical height of an object above sea level.

20. Necessity - Something that is required for a given task such as wilderness survival, often confused with items that are wanted but not necessary.