

## VOCABULARY WORDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

**Aerial.** *adjective.* Inhabiting or frequenting the air: *aerial creatures.*

**Aves.** *noun (used with a plural verb).* A class of vertebrates comprising the birds.

**Biology.** *noun.* The science of life or living matter in all its forms and phenomena, especially with reference to origin, growth, reproduction, structure, and behavior. **Biolo-gist**

**Conservation.** *noun.* (1) The act of conserving; prevention of injury, decay, waste, or loss; preservation: *conservation of wildlife; conservation of human rights.* (2) Official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources in order to preserve and protect them through prudent management. (3) A district, river, forest, etc., under such supervision. (4) The careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion.

**Ecosystem.** *noun.* A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

**Environment.** *noun.* (1) The aggregate of surrounding things, conditions, or influences; surroundings; milieu. (2) *Ecology.* the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time. (3) The social and cultural forces that shape the life of a person or a population. (4) An indoor or outdoor setting that is characterized by the presence of environmental art that is itself designed to be site-specific.

**Knowledge.** *noun.* (1) Acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation; general erudition: *knowledge of many things.* (2) Familiarity or conversance, as with a particular subject or branch of learning: *A knowledge of accounting was necessary for the job.* (3) Acquaintance or familiarity gained by sight, experience, or report: *a knowledge of human nature.* (4) The fact or state of knowing; the perception of fact or truth; clear and certain mental apprehension. (5) Awareness, as of a fact or circumstance: *He had knowledge of her good fortune.*

**Migrate.** *verb.* (1) to go from one country, region, or place to another. (2) to pass periodically from one region or climate to another, as certain birds, fishes, and animals: *The birds migrate southward in the winter.* (3) to shift, as from one system, mode of operation, or enterprise to another. **Migra-tion**

**Natural Resources.** *noun.* The natural wealth of a country, consisting of land, forests, mineral deposits, water, etc.

**Nutrients.** *noun.* A substance that provides nourishment for growth or metabolism. *Plants absorb nutrients mainly from the soil in the form of minerals and other inorganic compounds, and animals obtain nutrients from ingested foods.*

**Pollution.** *noun.* The introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment.

**Respiration.** noun. The process in living organisms of taking in oxygen from the surroundings and giving out carbon dioxide (external respiration).

**Shelter.** noun. (1) Something beneath, behind, or within which a person, animal, or thing is protected from storms, missiles, adverse conditions, etc.; refuge. (2) The protection or refuge afforded by such a thing: *He took shelter in a nearby barn.* (3) A dwelling place or home considered as a refuge from the elements: *Everyone's basic needs are food, clothing, and shelter.*

**Reference:**

Dictionary.com. (2012). *Online dictionary.* Retrieved on October 18, 2012 from <http://www.dictionary.com>.