Unit 11
Vocabulary Cards

Skills Strand
GRADE 3

Core Knowledge Language Arts®
ecology
the study of relationships between living things and their environment
environment
natural surroundings (environments)
ecosystem
everything in a particular environment, both living and nonliving
organism
a living thing
depend on
rely on or need (depends on)
survival
the ability to continue living
pollen
a yellow substance made by plants that is carried to other plants of the same kind to make seeds
survive
to continue living
to move quickly across something (skittering)
sprout
to begin to grow
food chain
a relationship of living things as food sources for other living things (food chains)
sapling
a young tree (saplings)
mighty
large in size
wander
to move around without a particular direction or purpose
nutrient
vitamins and minerals that help living things stay healthy (nutrients)
protect
to keep safe from harm
predator
an animal that lives by hunting other animals (predators)
defense
a way to protect against harm (defenses)
prey
animals that are hunted by other animals for food
microscopic
so small that it can only be seen with a microscope
apex
the top point
producer
a living thing that makes its own food (producers)
consumer
a living thing that eats other living things (consumers)
decomposer
a living thing that eats dead plant and animal matter (decomposers)
soil
dirt
photosynthesis
the process by which plants make their own food using sunlight
safety
the state of being free from harm
organic
from or made by living things
bacteria
microscopic living things that exist everywhere; Some can be helpful and some can be hurtful.
fungus
a plant-like organism that lives on dead or decaying things (fungi)
abundant
plentiful
decompose
to rot, decay, or be slowly destroyed and broken down by natural processes (decomposes, decomposed)
vitamin
a substance found in food that is necessary for good health (vitamins)
mineral
a substance that occurs naturally in some food and contributes to good health (minerals)
balance
in nature, the maintenance of populations in the proper amounts and conditions
wildlife
animals living in nature
safari
a trip taken to see or hunt wild animals
reserve
an area of land where plants and animals are given special protection
herd
a large group of animals (herds)
wildebeest
a large, African antelope, or deer-like creature, with long, curving horns (wildebeests)
acacia
a small tree that has yellow or white flowers (acacias)
rely on
depend on or need
upset
to interfere with
gazelle
an antelope, or deer-like creature, that runs very fast (**gazelles**)
extinction
a condition in which a kind of plant or animal dies out completely
fragile
weak, easily harmed
erode
to wear away over time due to wind or water (erosion, eroded)
common
occurring often
force
something powerful, especially in nature (forces)
flood
a condition in which a body of water rises and overflows beyond its usual limits (floods)
landscape
an area of land that can be seen in one look
topsoil
the top layer of soil that includes nutrients plants need
decay
to rot (decaying)
petrified
slowly changed into stone over time
prehistoric
a time before history was written down
countless
too many to count
species
a group into which animals or plants are divided by scientists
jackrabbit
an animal that looks like a large rabbit with long ears and long hind legs (jackrabbits)
technology
the invention of useful things or solving problems using science and engineering
resource
something that is useful or valuable
primarily
mainly
generate
to make (generates)
hydroelectric
using the power of water to make electricity
reservoir
a lake in which water is stored for use
endangered
in danger of dying out completely
pasture
a field in which animals eat grass (pastures)
pump
to move liquid using a special machine
oil rig
a platform built above the ocean to support drilling for oil underwater
anchored
held firmly in place
disaster
a sudden event that causes much damage or loss
oil spill
an event during which oil is released into nature, usually into water, causing pollution
polluted
dirty and unsafe
variety
a collection of different types
effect
a change resulting from influence or power (effects)
source
where something comes from
coastline
the place where the land and the ocean meet
seal
to close up (sealed)
oil boom
a floating barrier put in water to keep oil from spreading (oil booms)
recover
to improve after an accident or difficult time
natural resource
a useful or valuable thing found in nature (natural resources)
recycle
to process old things so they can be used again to make new things (recycled, recycling)
alternative
another choice (alternatives)
unnecessary
not needed
treasure
a valuable, important, or special thing (treasures)
naturalist
a person who studies living things in nature (naturalists)
conservationist
a person who works to protect animals, plants, and other natural resources (conservationists)
wilderness
a wild and natural area where no people live