

Glossary

Green words and phrases are Core Vocabulary terms for the unit, and Student Reader page numbers are listed in parentheses. **Bold-faced words and phrases** are additional vocabulary terms related to the unit that you should model for students during instruction and that are often used within the Student Reader, and these latter terms do not have specific page numbers listed. Vocabulary words are not intended for use in isolated drill or memorization.

A

adaptation, n. a body part or behavior that helps a living thing survive (7)

advantage, n. a natural or learned condition that helps an organism adapt to a particular habitat

amber, n. hardened resin from trees

B

behavioral trait, n. a way an organism behaves, or acts (13)

C

camouflage, n. a pattern of coloration that makes an organism difficult to see against the background in its habitat

climate, n. the pattern of weather over a long period of time (30)

conservation, n. the act of protection of a species, habitat, or resource

conservationist, n. a person who works to protect plants, animals, habitats, and ecosystems (35)

conserve, v. to save or protect

construction, n. the building of a structure

D

dam, n. a structure that blocks flowing water

decompose, v. for an organism to break down and become part of the environment

desert, n. a dry habitat that is often hot and sandy

disadvantage, n. a condition or trait that is harmful or presents a challenge

disrupt, v. to cause a disturbance or problem

dominance, n. strength or power over other weaker individuals

E

ecosystem, n. all the living and nonliving things in a place and their interactions (19)

ecosystem change, n. a natural or human-caused influence in a habitat

endangered species, n. a species that is at risk of becoming extinct within a few years (58)

environment, n. the conditions or surroundings in which plants and animals live

evidence, n. proof of the past or of a fact, such as fossils that show imprints of animals that lived long ago

extinct, adj. having no surviving members (47)

F

forest, n. a habitat that is thick with trees

fossil, n. the remains of a living thing from long ago, usually formed in layers of rock (41)

fresh water, n. water with little to no natural salt content

G

glacier, n. a huge moving block of ice and rock on land

H

habitat, n. the natural place where an organism lives (1)

I

interact, v. to act upon one another, such as trees, worms, birds, and soil in an ecosystem

invasive species, n. an organism that causes harm in a place where it does not normally live (22)

M

migrate, v. to move from one place to another in different seasons (27)

N

native, adj. a plant or animal that is found naturally in a habitat

natural hazard, n. a natural event that causes negative changes to a habitat or ecosystem

O

organism, n. a single living thing

overpopulation, n. too many of one kind of species in an ecosystem

P

preserve, v. to take care of something in order to keep it in its original form

R

relative, adj. a comparison to identify similarities, such as comparisons of fossils and current species of plants or animals

respond, v. to react to a change by doing something

restore, v. to bring back something or to repair damage

role, n. a specific job or prescribed behavior in an interaction

S

salt water, n. water with a naturally high salt content

survive, v. to stay alive (1)

system, n. a group of related parts that can make up a whole

T

trait, n. a characteristic or quality that may be physical or behavioral

tundra, n. a very cold habitat that is often rocky and flat