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| **ECOSYSTEMS** |
| carnivore | A consumer which gets energy from eating animals (meat) |
| omnivore | A consumer which gets energy from eating plants and animals |
| herbivore | A consumer which gets energy from eating plants or vegetation |
| decomposer | An organism that gets energy from recycling nutrients by breaking down decaying material.  |
| producer | An organism that makes its own food by the process of photosynthesis. |
| photosynthesis | A chemical process by which plants use sunlight to create their own food.  |
| consumer | An organism that gets its energy by eating other organisms. |
| biome | Areas that have similar climate and land features with specific types of plant and animal life.  |
| organism | A living thing |
| abiotic | Non living things such as light, air, and soil |
| biotic | Living things in an ecosystem, such as animals and plants. |
| terrestrial | Having to do with land (such as forest and grassland) |
| aquatic |  Having to do with water |
| oxygen | Gas produced by plants that is needed for respiration by animals |
| carbon dioxide | Gas produced by animals that is needed for respiration by plants |
| adaptation | A change in order to be successful in a new environment |
| algae | An aquatic producer that is responsible for 70% of the earth’s oxygen |
| ecosystem | All living and non-living things found together in an environment  |
| environment | Everything that surrounds an organism and influences it |
| food web | A model that shows how several food chains connect together. foodwebexample.gif |
| food chain | A simple path that shows how energy moves from one organism to the next. foodchain.png |
| transfer of energy | How energy moves from one source to anothertransfer of energy.jpg |
| estuary | An aquatic ecosystem where salt water and fresh water mix |
| fertile | Rich in nutrients (ex. Grasslands, Estuary) |
| niche | Specific role based on traits that allow for competing organisms to live in an ecosystem. |
| pollutant | Harmful substance that has negative effects on an ecosystem |
| population | A group of the same type of organisms living in one area |

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| **Human Body Systems** |
| traits | Quality or characteristic of a living thing |
| acquired traits | A trait that a living thing gets during its lifetime |
| instinct | An inherited behavioral trait such as walking for people and hibernating for bears |
| heredity | The process by which traits are transferred from parent to offspring |
| DNA | The material that carries all the information about how a living thing will look and function |
| inherited trait | A characteristic that a living thing gets from its parents |
| offspring | The young of a person, animal, or plant |
| cells | The basic unit of life |
| unicellular | A living organism composed on one cell (amoeba, paramecium) unicellular.png |
| multi-cellular | A living organism composed of many specialized cells (hydra, insect, animal, human) multicelluar1.jpgmulticellular2.jpg |
| tissue | A group of similar cells that work together (muscle cells, skin cells)  |
| organ | Part of a system that consists of cells and tissue that is specialized to perform a specific task (heart, brain) |
| nervous system | sends and receives messages through the body (brain, nerves, spinal cord) |
| circulatory system | moves oxygen, food, and waste throughout the body (heart, blood vessels) *also called cardiovascular system* |
| respiratory System | Brings oxygen in and takes carbon dioxide out (lungs) |
| digestive system | Breaks down food to be used as energy (stomach, intestines) |
| skeletal system | Provides support and structure (bones) |
| muscular system | Works with bones to allow movement (muscles) |
| skeletal muscle | Muscles attached to bone  |
| smooth muscle | Muscles of the internal organs (stomach)  |
| cardiac muscle | Muscles of the heart  |
| involuntary muscle | Muscles that work automatically (cardiac muscle, stomach muscle) |
| voluntary muscle | Muscle movement that you can control (lifting your arm) |

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| **Weather** |
| weather | Condition of the atmosphere at a specific place and time |
| convection | Transfer of heat energy through liquids and gases |
| radiation | Transfer of energy through the sun’s rays |
| climate | Average weather of an area over a period of time |
| meteorologist | A scientist that studies weather |
| conduction | Transfer of heat from direct contact |
| evaporation | A change from a liquid to a gas |
| water cycle | The movement of water between earth’s surface and the atmosphere |
| transpiration | A plant’s release of water vapor into the air |
| condensation | The change from a gas to a liquid |
| precipitation | Rain, snow, sleet, hail |
| run-off | Excess water that the ground cannot absorb and flows over the land  |
| air mass | A large body of air with similar temperature and humidity |
| front | The boundary between two different air masses (cold or warm) |
| prevailing wind | A wind pattern that blows consistently in the same direction (In the United States it is from West to East) |
| jet stream | Air current in the upper atmosphere that goes from West to East |
| current | A mass of water or air that moves in a specific direction (example: gulf stream) |
| latitude | The distance North or South of the equator |
| equator | The imaginary line that divides Northern and Southern Hemispheres ( 0° latitude) |
| altitude | Height above sea level |
| humidity | The amount of water vapor in the air |
| low pressure | A mass of warm moist air |
| high pressure | A mass of cool dry air |
| weather instruments | Tools that help measure weather conditions (barometer, anemometer, thermometer, etc.) |
| stratus  | Layers clouds |
| cumulus  | Puffy clouds |
| nimbus | Storm clouds |
| cirrus | Wispy clouds |
| alto | Pre-fix to describe medium height clouds |
| land breeze | A breeze from land towards water during at night land breeze.jpg |
| sea breeze | A breeze from sea towards land during the day sea breeze.jpg |

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| **Force and Motion** |
| simple machine | a tool to make work easier with few or no moving parts |
| force | push or pull on an object |
| position | a location |
| distance | how far an object travels |
| motion | changing a position over time |
| speed | how far an object moves in a certain amount of time (distance/time) |
| acceleration | a change in speed |
| inertia | a tendency of an object to resist a change in motion |
| mass | the amount of matter in an object |
| momentum | the strength of movement  |
| newtons | a unit to measure force |
| gravity | a force that pulls objects towards each other |
| friction | the force that resists motion between two touching surfaces, slows things down |
| air resistance | the force of air pushing against the motion of an object |
| hypothesis | an idea that can be tested by an experiment or observation |
| control | an unchanging part of an experiment |
| volume | the amount of that an object or substance takes up (Length x Width x Height) |
| matter | the material or stuff that everything is made of |
| density | how heavy something is for its size one pound of feathers vs. one pound of bricks  |
| physical change | change in size, shape, or state of matter (can be reversed) C:\Users\cfletcher\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Z5B82KUN\MC900012913[1].wmf |
| chemical change | change the forms a new substance (can’t be reversed)C:\Users\cfletcher\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\KPVZZ37V\MC900351188[1].wmf |
| temperature | a measure of how warm something is |
| kinetic energy | the energy of motion |
| potential energy | stored energy |
| thermal energy | heat energy |

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| **Academic Vocabulary** |
| increase | to add to something (gets bigger) |
| decrease | to subtract from something (gets smaller) |
| interdependence | mutually dependent – depending on each other  |
| dependence | rely on someone or something – one direction |
| constant | unchanging |
| variable | something that can change |
| decompose | to break down or take apart |
| factors | something that affects a situation |
| resources | something that can be used to meet wants or needs  |
| energy | the ability to do work, move, or change |
| competition | the contest among organisms for limited resources |
| transfer | to move from one to another |
| system | a group of parts that work together |
| specialized | having a specific job, role, or understanding |
| evaluate | to solve |
| analyze | to break apart or think through |
| infer | information put with knowledge to determine the answer or solution |
| formulate | to come up with a plan or put together |
| describe | to tell about in your own words |
| support | back up with details to tell why |
| explain | to tell how |
| summarize | to give the short version  |
| compare | how things are the same |
| contrast | how things are different |
| predict | what will happen next or in the future |
| conclude | to end |