

1.	<u>ATMOSPHERE</u> : the mixture of gases surrounding the Earth	
2.	<u>GEOSPHERE</u> : the rocky part of Earth which is mostly solid and extends from the crust to the core	
3.	<u>HYDROSPHERE</u> - the portion of Earth that is water	
4.	<u>BIOSPHERE</u> - all life on Earth	
5.	<u>CARBON</u> - type of atom that is the basis for all life	
6.	<u>CARBON CYCLE</u> - how carbon is recycled and moves around throughout the hydrosphere, geosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere	
7.	<u>DIFFUSION</u> --- process where molecules spread out from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration. The way CO ₂ in the air gets into water.	
8.	<u>INGESTION</u> —process of eating. The only way animals get carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus	
9.	<u>CONSUMPTION</u> -- process of eating. The only way animals get carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus	

10.	<u>EXCRETION</u> —process of getting rid of solid or liquid waste. It always contains water, nitrogen, and phosphorus.	
11.	<u>LITHIFICATION</u> —process of making rock in the carbon or phosphorus cycle	
12.	<u>PHOTOSYNTHESIS</u> --plants breathe in CO ₂ to make their food	
13.	<u>RESPIRATION</u> - creatures can breathe out CO ₂ and water after making energy out of sugar	
14.	<u>DECOMPOSITION</u> —the slow breakdown of substances into simpler molecules. Caused by decomposers doing cell respiration (releases CO ₂ into air)	
15.	<u>COMBUSTION</u> -- the fast breakdown of substances (uses oxygen] AKA FIRE	
16.	<u>EXTRACTION</u> - the process of removing fossil fuels from the ground	
17.	<u>BIOMINERALIZATION</u> - the creation of shells (full of carbon) from the dissolved CO ₂ in sea water	
18.	<u>NITROGEN</u> - type of atom that is used to make proteins	

19.	<u>NITROGEN CYCLE</u> - how nitrogen is recycled and moves around throughout the hydrosphere, geosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere	
20.	<u>NITRIFICATION</u> – The process where lightning or soil bacteria transforms atmospheric nitrogen into a form usable for plants. (AMMONIA NH ₃)	
21.	<u>FIXATION</u> - The process where soil bacteria transforms atmospheric nitrogen into a form usable for plants. (AMMONIA into Nitrates NO ₂)	
22.	<u>NITROGEN FIXING BACTERIA</u> - bacteria living on certain plant roots that can fix nitrogen	
23.	<u>ASSIMILATION</u> - nitrogen soaking into the roots of a plant	
24.	<u>DENITRIFICATION</u> - the process where bacteria transform nitrogen compounds in the soil back into atmospheric nitrogen. (To make UNUSABLE)	
25.	<u>EUTROPHICATION</u> - excessive plant growth due to too much nitrogen and phosphorus (fertilizers)	
26.	<u>HYPOXIC ZONE / DEAD ZONE</u> – area at the mouth of a river where all creatures die due to lack of oxygen	