**Environmental Science Unit 3 Chapter 6 Vocabulary**

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| **Biome** | **A large region characterized by types of climates, plants, and animal communities.** |
| **Latitude** | **The distance north or south of the equator; written in degrees.** |
| **Altitude** | **The height of an object measured from a point, such as the Earth’s surface.** |
| **Tropical Rainforest** | **A forest near the equator with large amounts of rain, little temperature change, and the greatest diversity of organisms on Earth.** |
| **Emergent Layer** | **Top layer in a forest where some of the trees extend above surrounding trees.** |
| **Canopy** | **The wall of treetops that shade the forest floor.** |
| **Temperate Deciduous Forest** | **A forest with trees that shed their leaves in the fall.** |
| **Taiga** | **A region of evergreen, coniferous forest below the tundra regions.** |
| **Savanna** | **A tropical grassland with few trees or shrubs and low rainfall.** |
| **Temperate Grassland** | **A community with grasses, few trees, cold, winters, and average rainfall.** |
| **Desert** | **A region that has little or no plants, long periods without rain, and extreme temperatures.** |
| **Tundra** | **A treeless plain located in the Arctic or Antarctica. Has cold temperatures and a short growing season.** |
| **Permafrost** | **In arctic regions, the layer of soil that stays frozen.** |
| **Chaparral** | **Coastal area with hot, dry summers, mild, wet winters and has many shrubs.** |

**Environmental Science Unit 3 Chapter 7 Vocabulary**

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| **Wetland** | **An area where varying amounts of standing water covers the soil.** |
| **Plankton** | **Microscopic organisms that float in aquatic environments.** |
| **Nekton** | **All free swimming organisms in a body of water.** |
| **Benthos** | **Organisms that live at the bottom of a body of water.** |
| **Littoral Zone** | **The shallow coastal region or shore of a body of water.** |
| **Benthic Zone** | **The bottom region of a body of water.** |
| **Eutrophication** | **An increase in the amount of nutrients in an aquatic ecosystem.** |
| **Estuary** | **An area where fresh water from rivers mixes with salt water from the ocean.** |
| **Salinity** | **The amount of dissolved salts in a liquid.** |
| **Barrier Island** | **A narrow island that runs parallel to the shore.** |
| **Coral Reef** | **A limestone ridge formed by the growth and deposit of coral.** |