**Environmental Science Unit 5 Vocabulary – Part 1**

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| **Tectonic Plate** | **A block of lithosphere that consists of the crust and the outermost part of the mantle.** |
| **Erosion** | **The materials of the Earth’s surface are loosened, dissolved, or worn away and transported to another place by wind, water, ice, or gravity.** |
| **Ozone** | **A gas molecule made of 3 oxygen atoms, in the ozone layer and absorbs ultra violet solar radiation.** |
| **Radiation** | **Energy that is transferred as electromagnetic waves such as visible light and infrared waves.** |
| **Conduction** | **The transfer of energy as heat.** |
| **Convection** | **Movement of matter based on densities caused by temperature variations. May transfer energy as heat.** |
| **Greenhouse****Effect** | **Warming of the surface of the Earth when gases absorb and reradiate infrared radiation. Trapping of heat.** |
| **Water Cycle** | **The continuous movement of water between the atmosphere, the land, and the oceans.** |
| **Evaporation** | **The change of state from a liquid to a gas.** |
| **Condensation** | **The change of state from a gas to a liquid.** |
| **Precipitation** | **Any form of water that falls to the Earth’s surface from the clouds. i.e. rain, sleet, snow, hail** |
| **Salinity** | **A measure of the amount of dissolved salts in a given amount of liquid.** |
| **Fresh Water** | **Water that contains very little salt. i.e. rivers, streams, rivers, lakes** |
| **Biosphere** | **The part of Earth where life exists.** |
| **Atmosphere** | **A mixture of gases that surrounds a planet, such as Earth.** |
| **Geosphere** | **The mostly solid, rocky part of Earth; extends from the center of the core to the surface of the crust.** |
| **Hydrosphere** | **Includes all of the water on or near the Earth’s surface.** |

**Environmental Science Unit 5 Vocabulary – Part 2**

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| **Surface Water** | **All the bodies of water found above the ground.** |
| **Watershed** | **The area of land that is drained by a water system** |
| **Groundwater** | **The water that is beneath the Earth’s surface.** |
| **Aquifer** | **A body of rock or sediment that stores ground water.**  |
| **Recharge Zone** | **An area in which water travels downward to become part of an aquifer.** |
| **Reservoir** | **An artificial body of water that usually forms behind a dam.** |
| **Desalination** | **A process of removing salt from ocean water.** |
| **Point-Source Pollution** | **Pollution that comes from a specific site.** |
| **Wastewater** | **Water that contains wastes from homes or industry.** |
| **Biomagnification** | **The accumulation of pollutants at successive levels of the food chain.** |
| **Smog** | **Urban air pollution composed of a mixture of smoke, fog, and pollutants.**  |
| **Acid Precipitation** | **Precipitation that contains a high concentration of acids, because of the pollution in the atmosphere.** |
| **pH** | **A value used to express the acidity or alkalinity of a system. 7 neutral, below 7 acidic, above 7 basic.** |
| **Famine** | **Widespread malnutrition and starvation in an area due to a shortage of food, usually caused by a big event.** |
| **Malnutrition** | **A disorder of nutrition that results when a person does not consume enough of the nutrients that are needed.** |
| **Compost** | **A mixture of decomposing organic matter, such as manure & rotting plants, used as fertilizer.** |
| **Genetic Engineering** | **A technology in which the DNA sequences of a cell are modified for medical or industrial use.** |