**Environmental Science Unit 5 Vocabulary (all words)**

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| **Tectonic Plate** | A block of lithosphere that consists of the crust and part of the mantle. |
| **Erosion** | The removal and transport of surface material by water or wind. |
| **Ozone** | A gas molecule made of 3 oxygen atoms that absorb ultraviolet light. |
| **Radiation** | Energy that is transferred as visible light and infrared waves. |
| **Conduction** | The transfer of energy as heat. |
| **Convection** | Movement based on densities caused by temperature differences. |
| **Greenhouse**  **Effect** | Warming of the surface of the Earth by gases absorbing and trapping heat. |
| **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. |
| **Freshwater** | Water that is not salty. |
| **Biosphere** | The part of Earth where life exists. |
| **Atmosphere** | A mixture of gases that surrounds a planet. |
| **Geosphere** | The mostly solid part of Earth, extending 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. |
| **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. |
| **Genetic Engineering** | A technology in which the DNA sequences of a cell are modified for medical or industrial use. |

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| **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. |

Vocab Quiz is Thursday, 5/10

Over 20 Words