

DUE : August 7th 2026

AP Environmental Science Pre-Course Vocabulary Assignment

Assignment Instructions:

1. Create a list of the vocab words (digital or handwritten) that includes the following for each term:
 - Term
 - Definition (in your own words)
 - Illustration, diagram, or image
 - Real-world example or connection
2. Use reliable sources (textbooks, .gov/.edu websites, or science-based databases) to define terms.

Ecosystem

Define these terms in a way that's usable & understandable for you. Maybe that's making a chart on this page, creating a quizlet, flashcards--whatever works to help you study not only now, but also at the end of the year for the AP test.

On the due date, you'll show me your quizlet, flash cards, etc for proof that you did them.

1. 10% rule
2. Abiotic
3. Assimilation
4. Autotroph
5. Biome
6. Biotic
7. Carbon cycle
8. Cell respiration
9. Commensalism
10. Competition (inter vs intraspecific)
11. Consumer
12. Decomposition
13. Food chain
14. Food web
15. Freshwater
16. Gross primary productivity
17. Hydrologic cycle
18. Marine
19. Mutualism
20. Negative feedback
21. Net primary productivity
22. Nitrogen cycle
23. Nitrogen fixation
24. Parasitism
25. Phosphorus cycle
26. Photosynthesis
27. Positive feedback
28. Predator
29. Prey
30. Primary productivity
31. Producer
32. Reservoir/sink (vs source)
33. Resource partitioning
34. Salinity
35. Secondary productivity
36. Source (vs sink)
37. Symbiosis
38. Thermodynamics, 1st law
39. Thermodynamics, 2nd law
40. Trophic cascade
41. Trophic levels
42. Turbidity

Biodiversity

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1. Adaptation
2. Anthropogenic
3. Biodiversity
4. Biodiversity hotspot
5. Cultural service
6. Ecological tolerance
7. Extirpation
8. Generalist
9. Genetic diversity
10. Habitat/biome/ecosystem diversity
11. Inbreeding depression
12. Indicator species
13. Island Biogeography Theory
14. Keystone species
15. Migration
16. Monoculture
17. Natural disturbance
18. Natural selection
19. Niche
20. Optimal (what this word means in general)
21. Pioneer species
22. Primary succession
23. Provisioning service
24. Quadrat
25. Regulating service
26. Secondary succession
27. Simpson's Index of Diversity
28. Specialist
29. Species diversity
30. Species evenness
31. Species richness
32. Supporting service

Earth Processes

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1. Angle of incidence
2. Convection current
3. Convergent boundary
4. Coriolis Effect
5. Deposition
6. Divergent boundary
7. Divide
8. Earthquake
9. El Nino
10. Equinoxes & solstices (dates & what is happening at each)
11. Erosion
12. Exosphere (& properties)
13. Hadley Cells
14. Hot spot
15. Humus
16. Insolation
17. La Nina
18. Lithosphere
19. Mesosphere (& properties)
20. Parent material
21. Permeability (of soil)
22. Porosity (of soil)
23. Rain Shadow Effect
24. Soil chemistry tests
25. Soil components- sand vs silt vs clay
26. Soil horizons
27. Stratosphere (& properties)
28. Thermosphere (& properties)
29. Transform boundary
30. Tributary
31. Troposphere (& properties)
32. Watershed
33. Weathering