



Rancho Soñado Vocabulary



Abiotic	Nonliving
Adaptation	A behavior or characteristic that helps a plant or animal survive in the environment
Atmosphere	Gas that surrounds the Earth
Biosphere	Part of the Earth where life exists (life)
Biotic	Living
Carnivore	An animal that eats only animals
Chaparral	An ecosystem that has short, thick shrubs which are adapted to live in areas of very little water
Consumer	A living thing that gets energy by eating other living things
Decomposer	A living thing that breaks down wastes and dead organisms
Ecologist	A scientist who studies ecosystems
Ecosystem	All the biotic and abiotic things that interact in a particular area
Geosphere	Solid part of the earth
Herbivore	An animal that eats only plants
Hydrosphere	All of the Earth's water
Insectivore	An animal that eats only insects
Nectarivore	An animal that eats only nectar
Observation	A description of objects and events based on the senses
Omnivore	An animal that eats both animals and plants
Producer	A living thing that makes its own food
Riparian	An ecosystem located along a stream or river
Transpiration	The process by which plants release water vapor through their leaves
Wetland	An area of land where the water level remains near or above the surface of the ground for most of the year

Other Concepts for Teachers to Note:

Accumulation	Percolation
Condensation	Precipitation
Evaporation	Photosynthesis

The details processes of the water cycle and photosynthesis are now middle school standards.

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