Biodiversity Cards Vocabulary

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| Term | Definition |
| Adaptation | Physical or behavioral characteristics that help and organism survive in its environment |
| Annual | Plants that complete one biological life cycle in one year, dying at the end of the growing season |
| Appendage | External, protruding body parts on vertebrates; includes limbs, fins, antennae, mouth mandibles, etc. |
| Appendicular Skeleton | Vertebrate components that support appendages and attach to the axial skeleton |
| Arboreal | Living in and spending the majority of time in trees |
| Aquatic | Living in and spending the majority of time in water |
| Axial Skeleton | Central support skeleton of vertebrates; includes spinal column, skull, and rib cage |
| Biennial | Plants that complete one biological life cycle in two years, enter dormancy over colder months |
| Boreal | Biome characterized by coniferous forests consisting of mostly pine, spruce, and larch trees |
| Brood/Litter | Group of young produced at one time |
| Cache | Behavior of hoarding or storing food |
| Carapace | Shell of a turtle or head and thorax of an arthropod |
| Carrion | Decaying flesh of dead animals |
| Cathemeral | Active during the day and night |
| Clutch Size | Number of eggs laid at one time |
| Complete Metamorphosis | Insects that have four life stages including egg, larva, pupa, and adult |
| Coniferous | Woody plants bearing cones which are the primary reproductive structures producing seeds |
| Crepuscular | Active at dawn and dusk |
| Deciduous | Plants that shed all leaves for part of the year, usually coincides with winter or dry seasons |
| Direct Development | Young hatch as small versions of adults and do not undergo metamorphosis |
| Diurnal | Active during the day |

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| Term | Definition |
| Dormancy | Period in an organism's life during which growth/development stops in order to conserve energy and/or resources |
| Epiphyte | Organisms that grow in the surface of plants and obtain nutrients from surrounding air and water |
| Eusocial | Advanced form of social organization in which there is generational overlap, division of labor, and cooperative care |
| Evergreen | Plants that have leaves throughout the year |
| Fossorial | Living in burrows and spending much of the time underground |
| Generalist | Organisms that can survive with a wide variety of resources and/or habitats |
| Habitat | Area in which an organism lives and collects resources |
| Herbaceous | Plants that lack a woody stem and die at the end of the growing season |
| Incomplete Metamorphosis | Insects that have three life stages including egg, nymph, and adult |
| Indirect Development | Young hatch in an aquatic larval stage and go through metamorphosis before being in the adult form |
| Marsupial | Mammals whose young are born incompletely developed and are typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's underbelly |
| Mobile | Able to move without influence of an outside force |
| Molt | The act of shedding exoskeleton, skin, or feathers as an animal grows |
| Neoteny | Retain larval traits and physical characteristics into adulthood |
| Nocturnal | Active during the night |
| Ostiole | Small pore on some algae and fungi through which spores are released |
| Patagium | Skin membrane that connects forelimbs to hindlimbs enabling air gliding behavior |
| Perennial | Plants that live longer than two years |
| Photoreception | Detection of light, leading to vision |
| Plankton | Diverse group of marine organisms that mostly drift in currents; can be bacteria, fungi, algae, and animals, especially larvae |
| Polymorph | A form of an organism that is clearly different from the majority of the population; can be caused by genetics, environment, or both |
| Proboscis | Elongated, tubular mouthpart specialized for feeding and sucking |
| Riparian | Biome located between land and river or stream |
| Rosettes | Circular cluster of plant body features, such as leaves, that attach at a central point |
| Salinity | Concentration of dissolved salt in a volume of water |

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| Term | Definition |
| Samara | Papery type of fruit that forms a wing to assist in wind dispersal of seeds |
| Sessile | Unable to move; permanently attached to a substrate/base |
| Snout-vent Length | Length from tip of nose to base of tail |
| Spawn | The process of aquatic animals depositing eggs and sperm for external fertilization |
| Spore | Reproductive unit adapted to be dispersed and survive extended periods of time; produced by some plants, algae, fungi, and protozoa |
| Standard Length | Length from tip of snout to end of last vertebra |
| Taproot | Large central root that grows vertically from which other roots sprout horizontally |
| Temperate | Moderate climate zone that experiences four changing seasons |
| Terrestrial | Living on and spending most of the time on land |
| Toe Pads | Adhesive discs on tips of toes used for climbing trees |
| Total Length | Length from tip of nose to tip of tail |
| Ultrasonic | Soundwaves past the upper limit of the human hearing range |
| Webbing | Skin and flexible tissue connecting toes on an animal's foot; extends either part or all the way up the toes |