

Vocabulary Chapter 24 Managing Human-Affected Ecosystems

ebb

A slow back and forth movement of a an entity or substance

Example: The ebb and flow of the tide was apparent at the mouth of the harbor.

sustainable

Living within the means of support

Example: Sustainable agriculture does not deplete the land.

natural resource

A substance (generally of value) found in the natural environment

Examples: Oil, natural gas, forest products, minerals

agriculture

The raising of crops for food

Example: Early man practiced agriculture by diverting water to fields.

subsistence

Living at a minimal level

Example: Subsistence farming means growing only enough crops for a single family by that family.

urbanization

The process of humans living and working in cities while crops and resources are grown and gathered from afar

Example: Urbanization in California has taken over much cropland.

domestication

The process of breeding wild animals for use for humans

Example: Through domestication, we have sheep, cattle, and dogs.

cranial capacity

The volume of the brain in the skull

Example: The cranial capacity of humans is greater than that of any of the apes.

infrared

A spectrum of light that is invisible to the naked eye

Example: Heat is detected through infrared rays.

hominid

A type of early human-like ape

Example: Neanderthals were early hominids.

urban

Of or referring to areas of concentrated human population

Example: The San Francisco Bay Area is an urban area.

industrialization

Conversion to an economy based on the manufacture and distribution of consumer goods

Example: The waterfront of the city of Oakland has undergone much industrialization.

mass production

The production of consumer goods on a grand scale

Example: Henry Ford first used mass production in the development of the automobile.

degradation

The gradual destruction of parts of the environment or ecosystems.

Example: Filling the marshes is contributing to the degradation of San Francisco Bay.

synthetic

Human-made and not found in the natural environment

Examples: many plastics, nylon, rayon

stressor

A factor that stimulates a stress response in organisms

Example: Extra heat or light are plant stressors.

old air

Air that was collected several decades ago which can be used for comparative purposes

Example: Old air was gathered on the island of Hawaii in the 1950's.

reproductive age

The age at which an organism gains the ability to reproduce

Example: Human reproductive age is now a longer span of years than previously.

bioremediation

Using the science of biology to repair environmental damage

Example: Bioremediation has been used to repair oil spill damage.

eubacteria

A group of bacteria known as "true bacteria"

Example: Cyanobacteria are considered eubacteria.

exponential growth

A growth in which the numbers are doubled each year.

Example: Human population is approaching exponential growth

logistic growth

A type of managed or logical growth.

Example: Adding five to the population each year is managed or logistic growth.

sustainable

Living within the limits of one's resources and environment

Example: Sustainable agriculture does not result in depleted soil.

crop rotation

A process in which different crops are planted on the same land in succession

Example: Corn, followed by beans, followed by pasture was the farmer's crop rotation plan in one field.

famine

Large scale death due to food shortages

Example: There have been several famines in Ethiopia.

bioethics

The study of ethics related to living things

Example: Bioethics entered into our discussion on population control.

fertility

Ability to reproduce

Example: The age of fertility of humans has dropped.