



GRADES 1 & 2 Vocabulary

This list of words can be used along with the *Let's Investigate Sharks* PowerPoint

1. **Adaptation:** Change an organism undergoes in order to survive. The change is maintained over time by natural selection, a very slow process.
2. **Apex Predator:** An animal at the top of the food chain with no natural predators. If removed from an ecosystem, can have large cascading effects on many other species within that system.
3. **Biodiversity:** the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
4. **Bycatch:** Certain fish or other animals (dolphin, sea turtles) that are caught unintentionally while fishing for a specific fish species.
5. **Biologist:** Biology is the study of living things. Biologists study plants, animals or humans and the environments in which they live.
6. **Carnivore:** An animal that eats primarily other animals.
7. **Cartilage:** This is flexible connective tissue found inside the body (nose & Ears).
8. **Conservation:** The protection of plants, animals, and their habitats.
9. **Consumers:** Are animals that cannot make their own food, so they must eat other animals and plants to survive. (Food chain & food pyramid)
10. **Coral Reef:** Marine ecosystems made of tiny animals called coral polyps. The polyps secrete calcium carbonate, which hardens and creates a solid structure. Animals, plants and fish live on the coral reefs.
11. **Ecosystem:** Animals, plants and nonliving things that make up an environment and impact one another.
12. **Endangered Species:** A species that is in danger of becoming extinct if actions are not taken to protect it.

13. **Environment:** All the physical surroundings and factors that influence an organism on Earth are called the environment. The environment includes everything living and nonliving.
14. **Extinction:** When all individuals of a species die. Once a species is extinct, they are gone forever.
15. **Food Pyramid:** This shows the number of organisms at each level of the food chain. There are more producers (lower levels) than consumers (higher levels).
16. **Gills:** An organ used for breathing by animals in the water.
17. **Life Cycle:** A series of changes that happen to an organism over the course of its life.
18. **Mangrove Forest:** Mangroves are trees or bushes that can tolerate exposure to salt water. They are found along coastlines and are home to lots of organisms above and below the water.
19. **Organism:** Living thing
20. **Population:** All of the individuals of the same species living within a given area.
21. **Prey:** Animal caught and eaten by other animals.
22. **Producers:** (food chain & food pyramid) Living things that can make their own food. Plants are producers that make food through a process called photosynthesis. They use water, carbon dioxide and sunlight (energy) to make sugar and oxygen.
23. **Scales:** A flattened rigid plate that covers the body of an animal.
24. **Shark:** Sharks are fish that have skeletons made of cartilage (cartilaginous fish). There are over 500 different species of shark.
25. **Water Pollution:** Happens when water is made dirty by chemicals, waste or other hazardous materials.