



Marin Water 5th Grade Vocabulary List

Adaptation – A characteristic that helps an organism survive in its habitat.

Biodiversity – The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Characteristic – A feature or quality belonging to a person, place or thing that helps to identify it.

Climate – The average or expected weather conditions of a region over a period of many years. An area's climate determines what kinds of plants can grow and what kinds of animals can survive there.

Conservation – The careful use of a resource to save and protect it.

Data – Factual information, such as observations, measurements, or test results.

Drought – A long period of low rainfall, lasting up to several years.

Ecosystem – A collection of living things and the environment in which they live.

Efficiency – Using less of a resource to complete a task.

Evidence – Data that helps answer a question, form an explanation, or disprove an explanation.

Explanation – A nonfiction evidence-based story about how or why something in the natural world appears or happens. A scientific explanation must connect data or phenomena with accepted scientific knowledge.

Glacier – A thick mass of ice that covers a large area of land and remains frozen all year long. Most glaciers are located near the North and South Poles, but glaciers also exist high in mountain ranges such as the Himalayas and the Andes.

Groundwater – Water held beneath the Earth's surface.

Habitat – The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism.

Infiltration – When water enters into the ground.

Invasive – An organism that was brought to an area from far away and quickly overspreads, harming the native organisms.

Native – An organism that naturally occurs in a particular place and has for a long time.

Niche – The role an organism or population plays in an ecosystem.

Observation – Using your senses to carefully notice something in order to get information.

Organism – Any living thing.

Reservoir – A pond or lake used for the storage of water.

Resource – A usable supply of something, such as water.

Surface water – Water that collects on Earth’s surface.

Watershed - Land area that drains into a river, lake, ocean or other body of water.

Weather – The daily state of the atmosphere in any given place. We observe the weather by measuring the temperature, precipitation, cloud cover, fog conditions, air pressure and humidity.