

Module 2 ~ A Fish Tale (UE/MS/HS)

Keyword Definitions



1. **algae** - n. A wide variety of tiny, often microscopic, plants (or plant-like organisms) that live in water and on land. Algae (AL-jee) is the plural form of alga (AL-gah).
2. **aquatic** - adj. Living or growing in, on, or near the water.
3. **atmosphere** - n. The whole mass of air surrounding the earth.¹
4. **bacteria** – n. Microscopic single-celled organisms;² the simplest and oldest form of life, found in almost every environment on the Earth's surface. A gram of soil contains about 2.5 billion bacteria. (singular form: bacterium)
5. **carbon dioxide (CO₂)** - n. A chemical compound composed of two oxygen atoms bonded to a single carbon atom; a heavy colorless gas. It is formed as the result of human and animal respiration and also in the decay or burning of animal or vegetable matter.³
6. **career** – n. A profession for which one trains; an occupation.
7. **chemical process** - n. A method or means of changing one or more chemicals or chemical compounds.⁴
8. **climate** – n. The average condition of the weather at a place, usually over a period of years as exhibited by temperature, wind velocity, and precipitation.⁵
9. **decomposition** - v. The process of breaking down organic material, such as dead plant or animal tissue, into smaller molecules; the molecules are then available for use by the organisms of an ecosystem. Decomposition is carried on by bacteria, fungi, worms, and other organisms.⁶
10. **diffuse** – v. To spread out over a wide area; to extend, scatter.
11. **dissolved oxygen (DO)** - A colorless, tasteless and odorless substance that is continuously entering water from plants and the atmosphere above.
12. **environment** – n. The circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded.⁷ All components of the earth, including air, land, and water; all layers of the atmosphere.
13. **fish kill** – n. An event in which dead fish are observed. Fish kills are usually caused by depletion of oxygen in shallow water.
14. **invasive plant** - A non-native plant species that is able to spread on its own, causing environmental and/or economic harm.
15. **management plan** - A plan guiding the overall management of an area, often administered by a federal or state agency or citizens. It usually includes objectives, goals, standards and guidelines, management actions, and monitoring plans.
17. **oxygen** – n. A colorless gas that makes up 21% of the earth's atmosphere. It is essential for animal respiration (including human).
18. **parts per million (ppm)** - A way of expressing very dilute (small) concentrations of substances; PPM means “out of a million;” usually describes the concentration of something in water or soil.
19. **photosynthesis** - n. A chemical process that takes place in virtually all plants including aquatic plants and algae (and many forms of bacteria). Using three simple ingredients (carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight), plants and bacteria are able to make their own food. The process often releases oxygen into the atmosphere as a by-product.
20. **respiration** – n. The act or process by which an organism without lungs, such as a fish or plant, exchanges gases with its environment; the act or process of inhaling and exhaling; breathing.⁸
21. **submersed plants** - Plants growing with their root, stems, and leaves completely under the surface of the water.
22. **volunteer** – n. A person who provides a service with no expectation for payment.
23. **water monitoring** - Regular observation and assessment of the state of natural waters; collecting, managing and delivering data on the quantity and quality of water found in a waterbody (creek, lake, river, stream, ocean, etc.)
24. **water temperature** – The degree of hotness or coldness of water. Water temperature is an important factor for aquatic life. It affects metabolic rate of aquatic organisms that live in water and the activity level of bacteria. It also influences dissolved oxygen concentrations in water (e.g., colder water has higher dissolved oxygen levels). Air temperature and radiant energy from the sun have the greatest influence on water temperature.
25. **wind and wave action** – The action of wind on the water's surface. These forces may move, mix and disturb water (i.e., make waves). Under normal weather conditions, this process increases the amount of oxygen diffused into water from the atmosphere. However, wind from storms may decrease oxygen in a shallow waterbody as it can cause waves to stir up bottom sediments (mixing oxygen-poor sediments with surface waters and lowering the overall oxygen content).

¹ <http://www.aolsvc.merriam-webster.aol.com/dictionary/atmosphere>

² <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/48203/bacteria>

³ <http://www.aolsvc.merriam-webster.aol.com/dictionary/carbon%20dioxide>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_process

⁵ <http://www.aolsvc.merriam-webster.aol.com/dictionary/climate>

⁶ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/decomposition>

⁷ <http://www.aolsvc.merriam-webster.aol.com/dictionary/environment>

⁸ <http://www.answers.com/topic/respiration>

