

BayLab: Can We Save the Bay? Vocabulary

Word	Definition
algae	Very small one-celled plants that often grow in colonies
buoy	A floating device, which can collect information about the conditions in the water
chlorophyll	The green pigment in plants that makes photosynthesis possible (and gives plants their green color)
chlorophyll a	A type of chlorophyll (green pigment that makes photosynthesis possible) that is measured to determine the amount of algae in water
clarity	A measure of how clear the water is
control tank	In science experiments, the tank that is used as a yardstick to measure the results in the experimental tank
decomposed	Decayed or broken down into basic elements
dissolved oxygen	Oxygen trapped in between water molecules that plants and animals need in order to live
drought	An extended period of unusually dry weather
emissions	Gases and tiny particles that are released into the air as our car engines work
erosion	A natural process in which rocks and soils are broken down by wind and water
experimental tank	In science experiments, the tanks where the experiment takes place
food chains	The order of plants or animals in an ecosystem, each one eating the plant or animal before it on the chain
habitat	A place where animals and plants naturally live or grow
hypotheses	Predictions about an observation, experience, or scientific problem that can be tested by investigating further
hypothesis	A prediction about an observation, experience, or scientific problem that can be tested by investigating further; the singular form of <i>hypotheses</i>
impervious	Cannot be penetrated or passed through
mg/L	Milligrams per liter.--this is a concentration measurement which describes the mass of one substance (in this case dissolved oxygen) present in a liter of another substance (in this case water)
minnows	Small fish
nitrogen	A chemical element that is necessary for plant and animal grow
NTU	Nephelometer turbidity units as measured by a turbidimeter, which measures how cloudy water is
nutrient loading	Introducing excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients) into a body of water
nutrients	The essential chemicals plants and animals need to grow and survive
organic matter	Material which comes from something that was alive
organism	Any living creature including plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria
organisms	Living creatures including plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria
photosynthesis	The process by which green plants use water, carbon dioxide, and light from the sun to make food and oxygen
PSU	Practical salinity units-- these are units used to measure salinity and are equivalent to parts per thousand (ppt)
predators	Animals and plants that kill and eat other animals or plants (called their prey)
reproduce	Produce offspring
rhizomes	Plant stems that grow underground, parallel to the surface, from which roots and stems grow
salinity	The level of salt in a body of water



SAV	An abbreviation for submerged aquatic vegetation, or underwater plants that grow in shallow areas of the Bay
sediment	Material that is broken up and deposited on the bottom of a body of water, such as sand and silt
species	A group of living things that are similar to each other and can breed with each other; the basic grouping of living things in biology.
suspended	Remain floating
turbid	Cloudy
turbidity	The level of cloudiness of water
thrive	To grow vigorously and flourish
wastewater treatment plant	Facility that removes impurities from water