



Alphabetical BayQuest Vocabulary

| Word | Definition |
|------------------|---|
| abdomens | The last segments of a crustaceans' bodies, which contain the digestive organs |
| abundant | plentiful; occurring in very large numbers |
| addle | To remove from the nest or cover with oil |
| aggressive | Eager to fight |
| algae | Very small one-celled plants that often grow in colonies |
| algal blooms | Large, sudden growth of algae, caused by too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water |
| amphipods | Small, shrimp-like animals |
| antennas | A pair of feelers on the heads of some insects and crustaceans that are used to feel and taste |
| arthropods | Animals that have jointed legs, bodies that have different sections, and outer shells that protect them |
| bacteria | One-celled plants; some bacteria are helpful and some can cause diseases |
| barb | A sharp pointed body part that looks like the point on a fish hook |
| barbels | Whisker-like parts that jut out of the face parts of some fish |
| barnacles | Small, dome-shaped crustaceans that attach themselves to piers, rocks, jetties, and other animals |
| beds | Groups of oysters living together |
| benthic | Living at the bottom of a body of water |
| benthos | The bottom of a body of water and the plants and animals that live there |
| bills | Birds' hard beaks, used for eating |
| bitterns | Very small wading birds, related to herons, whose colorings makes them blend into their surroundings |
| bivalves | Shellfish such as clams that have two shells hinged together |
| book gills | Breathing organs that have thin folds of membrane that look like pages in a book |
| bottom feeders | Animals or plants that live in or on the bottom of a body of water |
| bouquet | An arrangement of flowers |
| brackish | Water that is a combination of fresh water and salt water |
| breeding grounds | Places where birds go to build nests, lay eggs, and care for their young when the hatch |
| bristle worms | A segmented worm that has pairs of tiny hairs or bristles on each side of their bodies |
| brittle | Easily cracked or broken |
| burrow | To dig into the ground |
| calcium | A mineral that helps build strong teeth and bones and controls muscle functions |
| camouflage | Colored patterns that make something hard to see |
| carnivores | Animals that eat only meat |
| cartilage | A tough tissue that makes up a shark's skeleton |
| caviar | Fish eggs |
| cells | The small units in each living plant or animal that are sometimes called the building blocks of life |
| chameleons | Lizards that can change color |
| characteristics | Traits or properties that make a group of animals or plants unique |



| Word | Definition |
|-------------------|--|
| chlorophyll | The green pigment in plants that makes photosynthesis possible (and gives plants their green color) |
| chordates | Animals that have spinal cords |
| cilia | Small organs that look like hairs or whiskers |
| cirri | In a barnacle, the hair-like legs that sweep about for food |
| clotting | The process through which blood changes to a solid from a liquid |
| cocoon | A protective covering in which pupae develop |
| collagen | A protein substance that helps support sponges |
| colonies | A group of several plants or animals living together |
| colony | Several individual animals living together, making it easier to find food and protect each other |
| common | Average or ordinary |
| community | a group of plants and animals, all living together in the same space |
| connective tissue | Tissues, like cartilage, that support or fasten together other body tissue or parts |
| conservationists | People who care for and look after the earth and all its plants and creatures |
| consumers | Living things that cannot produce its own food; it gets its energy by eating, or consuming, other animals or plants |
| continuously | Always; constantly |
| copepod | Tiny crustaceans (less than 1/8 inch in diameter, that have forked tails and long bodies) |
| coronet | A bony part of seahorses' heads, shaped like a small crown |
| crest | A showy growth of feathers |
| crested | Having a showy growth of feathers on the head |
| crustaceans | Animals such as crabs and lobsters that have a hard outer shell and jointed legs |
| cuticle | A waxy layer of cells that cover a plant's stems, leaves, and fruit |
| cygnets | Young swans |
| dabbler | Ducks that eat by putting only their heads and necks under water |
| dabbler ducks | Ducks that eat by upending themselves in the water, placing only their neck and head under water |
| debris | The remaining parts of something that has died or broken up |
| decaying | Rotting; decomposing |
| declined | Gone down in number |
| decompose | To decay or break down into basic elements |
| dens | Homes for wild animals |
| densely | Crowding closely together |
| dental plates | Flat crushing surfaces that take the place of teeth |
| destroyed | Killed; smashed |
| destructive | Destroying; ruining |
| detritus | Debris; particles from dead and decaying plants and animals |
| diameter | An imaginary straight line drawn from one point on the edge of a circle or circular object, through its center, to the opposite edge |
| diatoms | One-celled plants that have a hard exterior covering |
| digest | To change food into substances the body can use |
| dikes | Walls made of earth, built to help keep the water out of certain locations |
| discarded | Thrown away; left behind |



| Word | Definition |
|------------------|---|
| dissolved oxygen | Oxygen trapped in between water molecules that plants and animals need in order to live |
| distribution | Scattered over a specific area |
| dorsal fins | The fins on the top side of sharks and other fishes |
| drakes | Male ducks |
| ducklings | Baby ducks |
| Echinodermata | A type of animal found in the water that usually has five symmetrical parts |
| ecosystem | A natural community of plants and animals, each depending on the other and the environment in which they live |
| ecosystems | Natural communities of plants and animals, each depending on the other and the environment in which they live |
| egrets | Wading birds related to herons that are generally white in color. |
| endangered | In danger of disappearing or becoming extinct |
| enormous | Huge; giant |
| environment | The area where a plant or animal lives, including the land, the climate, and other plants and animals |
| erect | Upright in posture, perpendicular to the ground |
| erosion | The wearing away of land surfaces by wind and water |
| filter feeders | Animals that draw in water and strain bits of food from it |
| flock | a group of animals that stays together for protection and help in finding food |
| food chain | The order of plant or animals in an ecosystem, each one eating the plant or animal before it on the chain |
| food chains | Orders of plant or animals in an ecosystem, each one eating the plant or animal before it on the chain |
| food web | A collection of food chains, all of which show the connections between predator and prey |
| food webs | Collections of food chains, all of which show the connections between predator and prey |
| forked | Divided into two branches or parts |
| fry | To move to another location |
| fungi | Simple plant-like animals such as mildew and rust |
| gastropod | A snail and snail-like animal that usually have coiled shells |
| gastropods | Snails and snail-like animals that usually have coiled shells |
| gills | The organs animals living in water use to breathe |
| gravity | The force that pulls bodies to the center of the earth, giving them weight |
| graze | To eat plants without killing them |
| grazers | Animals that feed on plants without damaging them |
| habitat | A place where animals and plants naturally live or grow |
| hatch | To come out of an egg |
| hatchlings | Animals that have just hatched, or emerged from their eggs |
| herbivores | Animals that eat only plants |
| hollow | Not solid; empty or unfilled |
| hollows | A hole or space |
| horizontally | Parallel to the horizon, the line formed where the earth meets the sky |
| host | In biology, an animal or plant that supports or feeds another plant or animal |
| hulls | The body or frame of a boat |



| Word | Definition |
|------------------|--|
| hydroids | Tiny animals that grow in colonies. Hydroid colonies look like a collection of very small plants. |
| incisors | Sharp, flat front teeth that are especially suited for cutting |
| insulation | Material used to keep heat from escaping a home |
| interior | Inside; the area that is inside something |
| invasive | Spreading; used to talk about non-native plants or animals that come into an area and disturb it by taking the place of native plants or animals |
| invasive species | Non-native plants or animals that come into an area and disturb it by taking the place of native plants or animals |
| iridescent | Showing a rainbow-like display of changing colors |
| isopods | Crustaceans that have flat, segmented bodies |
| jetties | Man-made structures, usually of rock or stone, that stick out from the shore, helping protect beaches and harbors |
| keratin | The tough protein that makes up hair, skin, and nails |
| lactic acid | An acid that can build up in muscles, slowing them down |
| larvae | Animals that have just hatched |
| larval | Just after hatching |
| larval stage | The stage in development just after an animal has hatched |
| limestone | A rock mostly made up of calcium |
| litters | Groups of young animals all born at the same time |
| lodges | Dome-shaped houses made by beavers and muskrats |
| lunge | To pounce or strike at; to thrust forward suddenly |
| lure | To encourage to do something |
| mammal | Warm-blooded animals that have hair and nurse their young |
| megalops | Blue crabs just before they start looking like adults |
| merchandise | Items for sale |
| 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) |
| microscopic | Too small to be seen without the help of a magnifying device such as a microscope |
| migrate | To move to another location, usually according to season |
| migrating | Moving to another location, usually according to season |
| migratory | Animals that move from place to place, usually according to the season |
| mollusk | A type of animal that has no backbone, a soft body, and a hard shell |
| molt | To shed the outer layer of skin, feathers, hair, or other animal covering |
| molting | Shedding the outer layer of skin, feathers, hair, or other animal covering |
| mottled | Having spots or patches of different colors |
| mucus | A thick fluid that lubricates |
| mulch | Loose material placed over the soil to help prevent erosion and allow the soil to remain moist |
| mute | Unable to speak; silent |
| muzzle | The part of an animal's head that includes the mouth and nose |
| muzzles | Snouts, or areas on animals that includes their jaws and mouth |
| native | Beginning and growing in a certain area |
| nectar | A sweet liquid produced by flowers |

| Word | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| nemertine worms | Unsegmented worms that look like a long piece of flattened ribbon |
| neutralize | To make less harmful |
| nocturnal | Active during the night and sleeping during the day |
| NTU | Nephelometer turbidity units as measured by a turbidimeter, which measures how cloudy water is |
| nurseries | Places where eggs and young animals are cared for |
| nutrients | The essential chemicals plants and animals need to grow and survive |
| omnivores | Animals that eat both plants and animals |
| organism | Any living creature including plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria |
| organisms | Living creatures including plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria |
| oyster bars | Underwater areas where oysters grow |
| palps | Feelers attached to the mouth that allow animals to taste or touch |
| partially | Not completely, but to some degree |
| patrolling | Walking over a specific area looking for objects |
| perch | To sit on a resting place |
| photosynthesis | The process by which green plants use water and carbon dioxide and light from the sun to make food and oxygen. |
| pigment | Materials in cells that give plants and animals color |
| pincer | A claw used for holding or protecting |
| plankton | Tiny floating forms of plants and animals that are pushed about by the water current |
| poisonous | Causing injury, sickness, or death |
| pores | Tiny openings in a membrane |
| pouch | A bag-like structure in animals |
| predator | An animal that kills and eats other animals or plants (called their prey) |
| predators | Animals that kill and eat other animals or plants (called their prey) |
| prey | Animals that are killed and eaten by other animals (called predators) |
| preyed on | Eaten by |
| primary producers | Green plants that are able to make their own food |
| proboscis | A flexible tube similar to a tongue |
| producers | Creatures that make their own food; all plants are producers |
| protective | Covering or guarding from harm or injury |
| protein | A basic part of food that bodies need; sometimes called the bodies' building blocks |
| prowling | Patrolling; walking about in a secretive way |
| pseudopodia | False feet that allow worms to move |
| PSU | Practical salinity units; these are units used to measure salinity and are equivalent to parts per thousand (ppt) |
| pupae | Stages in animal development between the larval stage and the adult stage when great body changes take place |
| radula | A tongue-like structure covered with sharp teeth, used to cut off small pieces of food |
| regurgitates | Throws up; brings undigested food from the stomach to the mouth |
| replacement | A substitute; something that takes the place of |
| resident | Living in a certain area year-round |
| response | A reaction |



| Word | Definition |
|------------------------------|---|
| rhizomes | Plant stems that grow underground, parallel to the surface, from which roots and stems grow |
| rodents | A group of small animals that have special teeth for gnawing |
| rookeries | Areas where families of birds or animals live, breeding, nesting, and raising their young |
| rostrum | A body part, usually on the heads, that resembles a bird's beak |
| rudders | A device used to steer boats |
| salinity | The level of salt in a body of water |
| saliva | The watery fluid in the mouth that moistens food to make it more easily digested |
| SAV | An abbreviation for submerged aquatic vegetation, or underwater plants that grow in shallow areas of the Bay |
| scales | Thin overlapping flat plates that protect fish and reptiles |
| scavengers | Animals that eat dead plants and animals |
| school | A large group of fish swimming together |
| schools | Large groups of fish swimming together |
| scutes | Protective bony plates that take the place of scales |
| sediment | Material that is broken up and deposited on the bottom of a body of water, such as sand and silt |
| segmented | Divided into smaller sections |
| siphon | A thin tube creatures living under the water use to breathe |
| siphons (a) | In clams, thin tubes used to draw in water and food and spit out waste |
| siphons (b) | Thin tubes creatures living under the water use to breathe |
| sizeable | Fairly large |
| skeleton | The hard structure that give animals shape and support them. |
| skeletons | Hard structures that give animals shape and support them. |
| slender | Thin |
| snouts | Hard parts on the front of the faces of fishes (similar to noses) |
| span | To cover or extend over an area |
| spat | A young oyster that has attached to a hard surface |
| 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 |
| spicules | Small, needle-like parts of a sponge's skeleton |
| spiked | Long and sharply pointed |
| spongin | A flexible materials that makes up a sponge's skeleton |
| stands | A group of plants growing in a particular areas |
| structure | The way that something is organized or built |
| sturdy | Strong; muscular; well-built |
| submerged aquatic vegetation | Underwater plants that grow in shallow areas of the Bay |
| swim bladder | An air sac that helps keep fish floating in the water |
| talons | Sharp claws, especially on a bird of prey like an osprey |
| tentacles | Flexible organs used for holding and eating |
| threatening | Hostile and aggressive |
| tolerate | Put up with |
| toxins | Poisons |



| Word | Definition |
|--------------|--|
| transparent | Allowing light to pass through so that you can see what is behind |
| tributaries | Rivers that flow into larger rivers or other bodies of water |
| tundra | A treeless plain in the Arctic region |
| tunicate | Sac-like filter feeders that have a thick covering |
| turbidity | The level of cloudiness of water |
| twitching | Jerking or trembling |
| undigested | Bits of food that have not been broken down for use by the body |
| upholstering | The padded surfaces of furniture |
| waterfowl | Birds that live near lakes, rivers, bays, or other bodies of water |
| webbed | Connected to form a solid surface |
| wetland | An area such as a swamp or bog which are partially or totally covered by water |
| wetlands | Areas such as swamps or bogs which are partially or totally covered by water |
| whelks | Large snails in the mollusk family |
| wingspans | Distances from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other |
| zoaea | The early larval stage of crustaceans like the blue crab |
| zooplankton | Tiny animals that float on the Bay's currents; during their early development, creatures like crabs and oysters are considered to be zooplankton |