



Bayville Site-Wide Vocabulary List

Word	Definition
abdomens	The last segments of a crustaceans' bodies, which contain the digestive organs
absorbed	Taken in through thin openings on the surface
abundant	Plentiful; occurring in very large numbers
acres	Measures of land areas; each acre is equal to 4840 square yards
addle	To remove from the nest or cover with oil
aggressive	Eager to fight
alarming	Causing fear; warning
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
amount	Number or quantity
amphipods	Small, shrimp-like animals
antennas	A pair of feelers on the heads of some insects and crustaceans; used to feel and taste
appetite	A desire to eat
aquatic	Living or growing in water
aquifers	Underground layers of rock and soil that hold groundwater
arthropods	Animals that have jointed legs, bodies that have different sections, and protective outer shells
asphalt	A water-proof brown-blackish material used in paving
atmosphere	The mass of air surrounding the earth
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
BBC	The British Broadcasting Company, the United Kingdom's television and radio broadcaster that is funded by the government
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 feeder	Animal that feeds on plants or animals that live on the bottom of a body of water
bottom feeders	Animals that feed on plants or animals that live on the bottom of a body of water
bottom-dwelling	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
bristle worms	A segmented worm that has pairs of tiny hairs, called bristles, on each side of their bodies
brittle	Easily cracked or broken
buffer	A land barrier that separates a wildlife area from homes or other kinds of development
buffer zones	Land barriers that separate wildlife areas from homes or other kinds of development
buoy	A floating device, which can collect information about the conditions in the water
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
campaigns	Organized series of actions that help people accomplish their goals
cancerous	Filled with cancer, a disease in which cells multiply quickly in strange ways
carbon dioxide	The colorless, odorless gas that plants need to survive and grow; it is produced when animals breathe or materials are burned
carnivores	Animals that eat only meat
carpooling	Sharing a car to cut costs
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
chemicals	Substances such as salt or ammonia that are found in nature or made by people
chlorophyll	The green pigment in plants that makes photosynthesis possible (and gives plants their green color)
chlorophyll a	A type of chlorophyll (the green pigment that makes photosynthesis possible) that is measured to determine the amount of algae in water
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
clarity	A measure of how clear the water is
clotting	The process through which blood changes to a solid from a liquid
cocoon	A protective covering in which pupae develop
coelacanth	A large (up to 176 pounds) fish that is the only living animal to have a hinged head that they use to swallow large prey.
collagen	A protein substance that helps support sponges
colonies	Groups of several individual animals or plants living together
colony	A group of several individual animals or plants living together
common	Average or ordinary
community	A group of plants and animals, all living together in the same space
composting	Gathering together various kinds of plant material so the heat will break them down into a rich fertilizer



condensation	The process through which water vapor in the air changes into liquid
connective tissue	Tissue, like cartilage, that supports or fastens together other body tissue or parts
conservationists	People who care for and look after the earth and all its plants and creatures
conserves	Keeps from being harmed or damaged
constrictors	Snakes that coil around a victim, making it impossible for the victim to breathe
consumer	A living thing that cannot produce its own food; it gets its energy by eating, or consuming, other animals or plants
consumers	Living things that cannot produce their own food; they get their energy by eating, or consuming, other animals or plants
continuously	Always; constantly
control tank	In science experiments, the tank that is used as a yardstick to measure the results in the experimental tank
copepod	A tiny crustacean (less than 1/8 inch in diameter) that has a forked tail and long body
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
curfew	A rule that all people have to be off the streets by a certain hour, usually at night
current	The movement of water
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 putting only their heads and necks 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
decomposed	Decayed or broken 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
detergent	A cleaning substance that removes dirt and oil
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
discharge	Release water
disposable	A product that is designed to be thrown away after one use
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
drought	an extended period of unusually dry weather
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
emissions	Gases and tiny particles that are released into the air as our car engines work
encourage	To fill with the bravery needed to carry on
encourages	Fills with the bravery needed to carry on
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
equivalent	The same in value or amount
erect	Upright in posture, perpendicular to the ground
erosion	The wearing away of land surfaces by wind and water; a natural process in which rocks and soils are broken down by wind and water
evaporated	Changed from a liquid to a vapor
evaporation	The process of changing from a liquid to a vapor
evidence	Facts that indicate whether something is true or not
excess	A number or quantity much larger than what is needed
exhaust	Gases that car engines throw out as waste products
experimental tank	In science experiments, the tanks where the experiment takes place
extinct	No longer existing
filter feeders	Animals that draw in water and strain bits of food from it
filtered	Captured sediments and pollution while allowing the water to pass through
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 web	A collection of food chains, all of which show the connections between predator and prey
forked	Divided into two branches or parts
fry	Young fish
fungi	Simple plant-like animals such as mildew and rust
gastropod	A snails or snail-like animal that usually has a coiled shell
gastropods	Snails and snail-like animals that usually have coiled shells
generate	Make or produce
generates	Makes or produces
geology	The science and study of the Earth, how it is shaped and structured, and the processes that shape it.
gills	The organs animals living in water use to take in oxygen



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
groundwater	Water that exists below the Earth's surface
habitat	A place where animals and plants naturally live or grow
habitats	Places 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
hoax	A trick or a practical joke; an attempt to try to convince people that something is real when it is false
hollow	Not solid; empty or unfilled
hollows	Holes or spaces
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
hydroids	Tiny animals that grow in colonies. Hydroid colonies look like a collection of very small plants.
hypotheses	Predictions about an observation, experience, or scientific problem that can be tested by investigating further
hypothesis	Predictions about an observation, , experience, or scientific problem that can be tested by investigating further; the singular form of hypotheses
impervious	Not allowing another substance to pass through
incident	Event or happening
incisors	Sharp, flat front teeth that are especially suited for cutting
infiltration	The process of water moving from the surface into the Earth
informed	Keeping up to date on new information or knowledge
insulation	Material used to keep heat from escaping a home
interior	Inside; the area that is inside something
intertidal	Between high and low tides
intriguing	Interesting, fascinating; making people curious
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
investigating	Studying by close examination and careful study
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
juvenile	The stage of life between hatching and being an adult
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 made up of mostly 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
marsh	A type of wetland, covered with grasses and low-lying shrubs
megalops	Blue crabs just before they start looking like adults
merchandise	Items for sale
µg/L	Micrograms per liter; this is a concentration measurement which describes the mass of one substance (in this case chlorophyll a) in another substance (in this case water). An inch of human hair weighs about 300 micrograms.
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
minnows	Small fish
molecules	Very small particles made up of atoms
mollusk	A type of animal that has no backbone, a soft body, and a hard shell
mollusks	Types of animals that have no backbones, soft bodies, and hard shells
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
mythical	Something that exists only in your imagination, not proven
native	Beginning and growing in a certain area
nectar	A sweet liquid produced by flowers
nemertine worms	Unsegmented worms that look like a long piece of flattened ribbon
neutralize	To make less harmful
nitrogen	A chemical element that is necessary for plant and animal growth
nocturnal	Active during the night and sleeping during the day
NTU	Nephelometer turbidity units as measured by a turbidimeter, which measures how cloudy or turbid the water is
nurseries	Places where eggs and young animals are cared for
nutrient	An essential chemical plants and animals need to grow and survive
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
obscurity	The state of being hidden or in the dark, hard to see



omnivores	Animals that eat both plants and animals
organic	Grown or raised without the use of man-made pesticides or fertilizers
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
overloaded	Pushed past their capacity
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
patches	Areas that stand out from what surrounds them
patrolling	Walking over a specific area looking for objects
perch	To sit on a resting place
persuade	Cause to adopt a certain belief or action
pesticides	Chemicals used to control or get rid of unwanted insects and plants
petroleum	Oil or oil-based products
phenomenon	An unusual or abnormal person, place, thing, or event
phosphorus	An important plant nutrient that, in large amounts, can cause algae to grow out of control
photosynthesis	The process by which green plants use water, 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
prank	A trick or practical joke
precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, hail or mist that falls to the Earth
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)
predatory	Living by eating other animals
prey	Animals that are killed and eaten by other animals (called predators)
preyed on	Eaten by
primary producers	Green plants that make their own food
proboscis	A flexible tube similar to a tongue
producer	A green plant that is able to make its own food
producers	Living things that make their own food; all plants are producers
prominent	Something that is easy to see because it is sticking out beyond the surface
protective	Covering or guarding from harm or injury
protein	A basic part of food that bodies need; sometimes called the body's building blocks
prowling	Patrolling; walking about in a secretive way
pseudopodia	False feet that allow worms to move
PSU	Practical salinity units; these units are 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
reproduce	Produce offspring
reptile	An animal, such as a turtle, snake, alligator, or lizard, that has a backbone and is cold-blooded
resembling	Like, similar to
resident	Living in a certain area year-round
resources	Materials supplied by nature, such as forests, minerals, soil, water, and wildlife
response	A reaction
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 head, that resembles a bird's beak
rudders	A device used to steer boats
runoff	Precipitation that is not absorbed by the soil, but flows into streams or other surface water
salinity	The level of salt in a body of water
saliva	The watery fluid in the mouth that moistens food to make it easier to digest
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
seep	To move slowly into the ground
segmented	Divided into smaller sections
septic tanks	A system that uses underground tanks to hold and clean up waste water; used when sewers are not present
sewage	Used water and waste materials
shellfish	Animals such as crabs, oysters, or shrimp that have hard, protective skeletons on the outside of their bodies
sighting	The act of seeing or observing
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 gives animals shape and supports them
skeletons	The 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)
sombrero	A type of Mexican hat, with a very broad brim and a high crown
sonar	Equipment that uses sound waves to find objects that are under water
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 material that makes up a sponge's skeleton
stands	Groups of plants growing in a particular areas
steed	Horse with a lot of spirit
strangle	To kill by stopping someone or something from breathing
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
surgeon	A doctor who removes or repairs parts of the body through operations
suspended	remained floating
swim bladder	An air sac that helps keep fish floating in the water
table	To postpone until a later time
talons	Sharp claws, especially on a bird of prey like an osprey
tentacles	Flexible organs used for holding and eating
threatening	Hostile and aggressive
thrive	to grow vigorously and flourish
tolerate	Put up with
tonging	Harvesting oysters by using tongs; a tong is a pair of long rake-like poles hinged like scissors
toxins	Poisons
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
trough	An underwater area with sloping sides that is deeper than the areas around it
tumors	Abnormal tissue growths caused by the overgrowth of cells
tundra	A treeless plain in the Arctic region
tunicate	Sac-like filter feeders that have a thick covering
turbid	Cloudy
turbidity	The level of cloudiness of the water
twitching	Jerking or trembling
unanimously	With everyone's approval
undigested	Bits of food that have not been broken down for use by the body
upholstering	The padded surfaces of furniture
wastewater treatment plant	Facility that removes impurities from water
waterfowl	Birds that live near lakes, rivers, bays, or other bodies of water
watershed	An area of land that drains into a specific body of water
webbed	Connected to form a solid surface
weird	Unusual, strange, or creepy



wetland	An area such as a swamp or bog that is partially or totally covered by water
wetlands	Areas such as swamps or bogs that 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
zoea	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