

## Glossary: Module One



**Environment** - circumstances that surround an organism or group of organisms

**Zonation** - the distribution of plants and animals in biogeographical regions

**Salinity** - the relative proportion of salt in solution

**Adaptation** - the change in behavior, function, and/or structure of an organism in it's environment

**Photosynthesis** - the manufacture of carbohydrates by green plants and algae through the conversion of sunlight to chemical energy; requiring water and carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen as a by product

**Density** - mass per unit volume:  $D = MV$

**Latitude** - an imaginary line around the Earth parallel to the equator

**Longitude** - angular distance measured in degrees East or West of the prime meridian in Greenwich, England

**abyssal plain** - flat-like or sloping ocean floor just offshore from a continent, at depths of 4,000-6,000 meters

**Coriolis Effect** - the movement of air relative to the surface of Earth, caused by Earth's rotation; movement to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere. This is important to know when studying winds and their cause.

**Turbidity** - the amount of solid particles that are suspended in water that make wavelengths of light meander in water; creating a muddy appearance.

**spring tide** - the noticeable rise and fall of the tide at or immediately following a new or a full moon; this is caused by it's gravitational pull on the water.

**neap tide** - a weak tide occurring during quarter moons

**swells** - the up and down movement of the surface of the open sea caused by the wind

**tidal bore** - a high wave caused by tidal flow in a narrow opening

**hydrogen bonding** - a low-energy attractive force between hydrogen and another element. This attractive force determines the properties of water & organic compounds.

**water cycle** - it is the vertical and horizontal movement of water in all its phases between the earth, the atmosphere, and the oceans

**Pelagic zone** - the area of the ocean away from coastal areas, not including the sea floor

**Neritic Zone** - the area of the ocean including the first 200 meters surface water. The continental shelves are considered a part of the neritic zone.

**Supratidal Zone** - the area above the high tide water line that extends upland. This area that you place your blanket on the beach; moisture in this area comes from the splashing of waves

**Subtidal Zone** - the area below the low tide water mark; always covered in water. Many marine organisms here have adapted the high level of productivity found here.

**Benthic Zone** - the area of the ocean bottom; beginning near subtidal zone and extending toward the abyssal plain. Benthic organisms are often scavengers.