

# GLOSSARY

**Arbor Day** - a special day (the last Friday in April) set aside for planting new trees – Our second grade class planted three new trees on Arbor Day.

**biodiversity** - the variety of all living things on the planet – Any major loss of habitat is a threat to the biodiversity of the earth.

**bore** - to make a hole in something – The carpenter is going to bore a hole in the wood with his drill.

**botanist** - a person who studies plants – The botanist identified a new type of plant in the forest.

**cambium** - a layer of cells in the stems and roots of plants from which new phloem and xylem cells grow – The cambium is the area in a tree where annual growth occurs.

**carbon dioxide** - a gas absorbed from the air by a plant which it uses to make its own food – Trees can help clean the air by using some carbon dioxide.

**cell** - the smallest part of any living thing – Trees are made up of millions of cells.

**chemical** - a substance that is made by or has something to do with chemistry – The chemical that plants use to make food is called chlorophyll.

**chemical reaction** - the result of chemicals being combined to form a new substance – A chemical reaction happens when plants use chlorophyll to change the air and water they take in into sugar.

**chlorophyll** - substance in plants that makes them green and helps in food production – Trees use chlorophyll to make their food.

**compost** - to make a mixture of decaying organic materials to use as fertilizer – We compost our table scraps in a special area in our back yard.

**cutting** - a root, stem or leaf section removed from a plant that can grow into a new plant – My teacher gave me a cutting of the big plant in our classroom so I could grow a new plant at home.

**decay** - to break down dead organisms or their parts back to nutrients – When fallen leaves decay, they become part of the soil.

**entomologist** - person who studies insects – The entomologist said that the warm, rainy weather will bring many mosquitoes this summer.

**environment** - the surrounding area in which an organism lives – Our zoo tries to make each animal's cage like its natural environment.

**erosion** - slow wearing or washing away – Trees can help keep heavy winds and rains from causing soil erosion.

**forester** - a person trained in the science of developing and caring for forests – The forester helps to make sure the trees in the parks are healthy.

**forestry** - the science of developing and caring for forests – When I grow up, I want to study forestry.

**fruit** - the part of a plant that contains the seeds – Apples and nuts are fruits that you can eat.

**game** - wild animals that are hunted or caught (fishing) for sport and food – My Dad's favorite game bird to hunt is the wild turkey.

**greenhouse** - a building used for growing plants – The greenhouse has many windows so the plants can get lots of sunlight.

**harvest** - to gather plants or animals for human use – Sometimes we harvest trees to make furniture and other wood products.

**herpetologist** - a person who studies reptiles and amphibians – The herpetologist told me the difference between frogs and toads.

**ichthyologist** - person who studies fishes – The ichthyologist found out that the garbage being dumped in the pond was killing the fishes.

**invertebrate** - an animal with no backbone (spine) – Worms, crayfish and insects are all types of invertebrates.

**lobe** - a projection that extends out on a leaf – You can identify leaves by looking at how many lobes they have.

**management** - the control, use and replacement of renewable resources – If we use good forest management, we will always have trees.

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**mulch** - a protective covering of material spread on the ground to enrich the soil, hold in water or keep the soil at a steady temperature – The gardener spread mulch around the sapling.

**natural resources** - materials that are found in nature that are useful or necessary for people to live – Our natural resources include water, trees and minerals.

**nursery** - a place where plants are planted, raised and sold – We get trees and shrubs to plant in our yard from the nursery.

**nut** - the dry fruit of a plant with a hard outer shell and softer inside – Squirrels gather and store nuts for food to eat during the winter.

**nutrient** - something needed by animals and plants for growth – Trees make their food with help from nutrients they get from the soil.

**ornithologist** - person who studies birds – The ornithologist showed the children the marks made by the woodpecker.

**oxygen** - a gas in the air which many organisms need to survive – When a tree makes its food, it gives off oxygen.

**phloem** - cells that carry sugar from the leaves to all parts of a tree – A tree's food is moved around the tree in the phloem.

**photosynthesis** - the process by which a plant makes simple sugar using light, chlorophyll, carbon dioxide and water – All green plants use photosynthesis to make their own food.

**pigment** - a substance that is used in coloring or dyeing – The green pigment in leaves will fade when there is no sunshine or water.

**productive** - making large amounts of something that is good and useful – A forest is productive because it provides shelter and food for the organisms that live in it.

**pruning** - to cut away unwanted parts of a tree to help it grow better – Pruning the dead branches can help trees grow fuller and taller.

**renewable resources** - living parts of the environment that can renew or replace themselves – Renewable resources like trees and grasses can grow back even if they are cut.

**sap** - liquid that flows through a tree – The sweet sap of a sugar maple tree is used to make maple syrup.

**sapling** - a young tree usually less than four inches in diameter when measured at chest height – A sapling needs special care when it is transplanted.

**species** - groups of organisms that have certain things about them that are alike – White oak and black oak are two different species of trees.

**seed** - the part of a plant from which a new plant can grow – We planted the seeds just last week, and we can already see sprouts.

**seedling** - a young tree usually no taller than two feet that is grown from a seed – Our old maple tree has many young seedlings growing around it.

**succession** - natural process of change on an area from one form of vegetation to another – The old farm field over time became a forest through the process of succession.

**timber industry** - businesses that manufacture and use tree products – The people who work in the timber industry choose carefully which trees should be cut down for making paper and other wood products.

**transplant** - to move a plant from one growing place to another – Each spring we transplant flowers from flowerpots to our front yard.

**vein** - a system of tubes that carries food and water in a leaf – You can recognize the leaves from different types of trees by the shapes of their veins.

**wildlife biologist** - someone who studies and manages animal populations and habitat – The wildlife biologist told us that there are wood ducks nesting by our farm pond.

**xylem** - cells in a tree that carry water and minerals from the roots to the trunk, branches and leaves – A tree's water and minerals are moved around the tree in the xylem.

**zoologist** - someone who studies all forms of animal life – The zoologist told us that all animals need shelter to survive.