



UNIT 1 VOCABULARY LIST

absolute location	(noun) The exact location of a place on Earth determined by the intersection of longitude and latitude measurements
blizzard	(noun) A long severe snowstorm
border	(noun) A real or imaginary line that divides two places. Usually a human feature; also called a boundary
cardinal direction	(noun) One of the four main directions featured on a compass rose: north, south, east, and west
climate	(noun) The typical weather conditions, such as temperature and precipitation, in a specific area
climate change	(noun) Changes in Earth's average temperatures, which influence all plant and animal life on the planet
compass	(noun) A tool used to determine directions by following a metal needle drawn toward magnetic north
compass rose	(noun) A symbol that represents a compass showing cardinal and intermediate directions
continents	(noun) The seven large land masses on Earth: Antarctica, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Australia
county	(noun) A section of a state with defined boundaries and its own governmental services. New Hampshire has ten counties.
deciduous	(adjective) A type of tree that loses its leaves in the fall and grows them back in the spring
dune	(noun) A hill of sand created by wind that provides protection from the ocean and a habitat for coastal plants and animals
elevation	(noun) The height of land measured from the level of the sea



UNIT 1 VOCABULARY LIST

equator	(noun) The imaginary line that runs east-west around the middle of Earth and represents zero degrees latitude
estuary	(noun) A body of water where a river meets saltwater
evergreen	(adjective) A type of tree that does not lose its leaves in the fall but remains green all year long
flood	(noun) A rising and overflowing of a body of water especially onto normally dry land
geography	(noun) The study of the physical, biological, and cultural features of Earth's surface
glaciers	(noun) Large masses of ice that also contains dirt, rocks, and other debris which form during ice ages
global warming	(noun) The increase of the average temperature on Earth. Although Earth's temperature naturally changes over time, the world is warming up faster than it should because of human activities. Another term for global warming is climate change.
granite	(noun) A hard rock naturally occurring in New Hampshire and used particularly for buildings and monuments
Gunter's chain	(noun) A tool used by surveyors, this chain of 100 equal links is 66 feet in length and is stretched across the land to calculate distances
habitat	(noun) A place where a plant or animal typically lives and grows



UNIT 1 VOCABULARY LIST

hemisphere	(noun) One half of Earth; the northern and southern ones are split by the equator and the eastern and western ones are split by the prime meridian
human feature	(noun) An element added to Earth's surface by people, usually to provide shelter, create borders, or support transportation
hurricane	(noun) Violent tropical cyclonic storm having wind speeds of at least 72 miles per hour
ice age	(noun) A period of time, usually lasting millions of years, when the average temperatures on Earth drop a great deal. Most of the planet becomes covered in snow and ice that forms into glaciers. Not many animals or plants can survive an ice age.
ice storm	(noun) A storm in which falling rain freezes on contact
intermediate direction	(noun) A point between two of the main points on a compass: northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast
key	(noun) An explanation of abbreviations or symbols used on a map, sometimes called a legend
latitude	(noun) The distance north or south of the equator, measured in degrees, represented by invisible parallel lines running east to west around Earth
leaf peepers	(noun) People who come to New England to see the beautiful colors of the changing leaves in the fall
longitude	(noun) The distance east or west of the prime meridian, measured in degrees represented by invisible parallel lines running north to south around Earth
meteorology	(noun) A science that deals with the atmosphere and its occurrences and especially with weather and weather forecasting



UNIT 1 VOCABULARY LIST

mudslides	(noun) The collapse of hillsides or mountainsides producing a river of mud, rocks, trees, and debris; usually caused by too much rainfall
natural resources	(noun) Something found in nature that is used by people, such as animals, plants, or fossil fuels
nor'easter	(noun) A large storm along the east coast of the United States, with winds coming from the northeast, occurring most often between September and April
oceans	(noun) The five large bodies of water on earth: Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, and Southern
physical feature	(noun) A naturally occurring feature on Earth's surface such as a landform or body of water
prime meridian	(noun) The imaginary line that runs north-south around the middle of Earth and represents zero degrees longitude
quarry	(noun) A deep pit created by humans in order to dig up certain types of stones or other materials like gravel or sand
precipitation	(noun) The amount of rain and snow an area receives
region	(noun) A section of a state or country that has specific characteristics but does not have an official boundary
relative location	(noun) The location of a physical or human feature described with cardinal and intermediate directions from another physical or human feature
renewable resource	(noun) Any material, such as wood or solar energy, that can or will be replenished naturally in the course of time
rural	(adj) An area of land that is primarily used for farming, where there are no large towns or cities



UNIT 1 VOCABULARY LIST

scale	(noun) A tool, printed or drawn, to show how distances should be measured on a map
summit	(noun) The highest point of a mountain or hill
surveyor	(noun) A person who takes measurements of the land in order to determine boundaries or provide data for a map of an area
terrain	(noun) The physical features of a stretch of land, such as rocky, hilly, or flat
urban	(adj) A large town or city, where there are lots of buildings and people
watershed	(noun) An area of land that drains into a particular river
wetlands	(noun) Areas of land that do not drain well such as swamps, marshes, and bogs