
Monterey Bay Vocabulary

Aerobic-pertaining to an organism that must live in the presence of oxygen

Algae-aquatic, photosynthetic organisms ranging from single-celled forms to the giant kelp

Anaerobic-pertaining to an organism that lives without atmospheric oxygen

Autotroph-an organism that produces its own food

Bacteria-microscopic one-celled organisms that lack a cell nucleus

Baleen-elastic horny material that makes up the fringed plates found in the upper jaw of cetaceans; This material is used to strain plankton from the water.

Budding-a form of asexual reproduction; Outgrowths may form on the parent and later separate from the parent and become new organisms. Some organisms put out “runners” that then create new individuals. Others, like sea anemones, walk around and leave little pieces behind that then form new anemones.

Chemosynthesis-the production of organic compounds from carbon dioxide and water using energy from chemical reactions rather than from sunlight

Cnidaria-a phylum of gelatinous animals with stinging cells

Community-a group of organisms living and interacting with one another in a specific region

Cornea-the eye’s transparent covering

Diatom-microscopic plant-like organisms having cell walls made of silica

Ecosystem-a community of living organisms and their non-living environment

Food Chain-the order of transfer of matter and energy from one organism to another in the form of food

Food Web-a series of interconnected food chains

Forage-search for food

Gill-organ used by aquatic animals to absorb oxygen from the water

Hermaphrodite-organism with both male and female reproductive parts, not necessarily at the same time

Heterotroph-an organism that does not produce its own food

Hydrogen Sulfide-a colorless, flammable, poisonous gas having a characteristic rotten egg odor; H₂S

Interdependent-mutually reliant

Intertidal-region between the high tide and low tide mark

Invertebrate-an animal without a backbone or spinal column (not a vertebrate)

Keratin-a protein that is the main component of hair, nails, horns, and hoofs

Krill-any of the small shrimp-like crustaceans of the family *Euphausiidae*

Lens-the part of the eye that focuses light rays on the retina to make an image

Mammal-warm-blooded vertebrate that nurses its young and has hair or fur

Marine Sanctuary-area set aside to protect natural and cultural resources in marine environments

Medusa-the cnidarian stage that has a bell with a mouth on the ventral surface and tentacles that point downward; jelly

Mesoglea-substance that makes up the watery portion of a jelly's body

Methane-an odorless, colorless, flammable gas; CH₄

Mollusc-the common name for animals with soft bodies, mantles, and shells in the Phylum Mollusca; Clams, mussels, snails, squids, and octopuses are all molluscs.

Nematocyst-stinging cell that contains poison or adhesive elements

Otolith-earstone found in the ear canal of fish and used for body orientation (also used for aging fish)

Photosynthesis-the chemical process by which plants (algae and some bacteria) make their own food; the process uses carbon dioxide, water, nutrients, and sunlight

Phytoplankton-microscopic plant-like plankton (algae and bacteria) that drift near the water's surface; the base of almost all food webs in the ocean and in fresh water

Polyp-the sessile stage of a jelly that reproduces through budding or strobilation

Predator-any animal that catches and eats other animals

Protein-complex organic compounds made of amino acids

Retina-the area of the eye that contains light receptors

Strobilation-a mode of reproduction used by scyphomedusae polyps to produce new medusae

Submersible-a manned or unmanned underwater vehicle used for scientific research and military operations

Sessile-permanently attached

Symbiosis-a relationship between two distinct organisms that can either be mutualistic (both benefit), parasitic (one benefits, one is harmed), or commensalistic (one benefits, one is not helped nor harmed). All three are types of symbiosis. For algae in jellies/sea anemones, the symbiotic relationship is a mutualistic one.

Tether-a rope, chain, or the like, by which an instrument is fastened to a fixed object to limit its range of movement or it may be used to convey information in both directions-e.g. Some remote vehicles use fiber optic and copper cables enclosed in a tether.

Tide-periodic change in the level of the ocean caused by the gravitational pull between the earth and the moon and the sun

Tidepool-pools of water found in rocky depressions along coastlines; These pools are left behind by the outgoing tides.

Tissue-a group of cells working together to perform a specific function