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## Sediment Coring Vocabulary

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**Algae**-very small to microscopic-sized plants that live in an aquatic environment; Algae are most often found floating on or near the surface of the water and are found attached to the surface of submerged rocks or coral in coastal environments.

**Anoxic**-not having available oxygen

**Biogenic**-coming from a living source

**Climate**-prevailing weather conditions in a particular region

**Current**-fluid that has a defined direction of movement or flow

**Diameter**-the length of a line segment from one edge of an object to the other, passing through the center of the object

**Fossil**-remains of ancient plants or animals that are found in sediments or rocks; such remains may consist of a skeleton, shell, or leaf imprint

**Marine Snow**-particle material (>0.2 mm or 200um) falling through the ocean as flocs of dead and living microscopic algae, tiny animals by-products, fecal pellets, and clay minerals, all bound loosely together by organic material and mucus

**Millimeter**-a metric unit of measurement; 25.4 millimeters equal one inch

**Micron**-a metric unit of measure that is equal to 1/1000 of a millimeter or 1/25400 of an inch

**Mucus**-sticky organic material produced by marine algae and small organisms in the process of growth and feeding

**Nodule**-a semi-spherical lump of minerals that is usually formed by concentric chemical precipitation around a small core; usually harder than the surrounding rock or sediment

**Phytoplankton**-microscopic plants or algae that live near the surface of the ocean and drift with the currents

**Plankton**-organisms which can be animal or plant that drift or swim weakly, carried about in water currents

**Precipitate**-a solid substance that is formed from a liquid under specific temperature and chemical conditions

**Protozoan**-single-celled, microscopic organism that represents the most primitive form of animal life

**Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)**-unmanned, underwater vehicle equipped with fiber optic cables for communication, visual views of the underwater environment, and data transmission

**Sediment**-particles such as sand, silt, and clay that are deposited by air, water, or ice

**Submersible**-a manned underwater vehicle used for scientific research and military operations which has no direct physical connection to a surface ship

**Terrigenous**-coming from weathered rock on the earth's continent

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

**Turbidity Current**-high density, sediment-laden, flowing current near the ocean floor

**Weathering**-the break down of rocks and minerals by chemical or mechanical processes

**Zooplankton**-animal plankton ranging in size from millimeters to inches who obtain food primarily by filtering particles out of large volumes of water; Zooplankton represent the most abundant living group in the world's oceans.