

Unit 11

Vocabulary Cards

Skills Strand
GRADE 3

Core Knowledge Language Arts®



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ecology

the study of relationships between living things and their environment

environment

natural surroundings (**environments**)

ecosystem

everything in a particular environment,
both living and nonliving

organism

a living thing

Unit 11: Chapter 1

depend on

rely on or need (**depends on**)

survival

the ability to continue living

pollen

a yellow substance made by plants that is carried to other plants of the same kind to make seeds

survive

to continue living

Unit 11: Chapter 1

skitter

to move quickly across something
(**skittering**)

sprout

to begin to grow

Unit 11: Chapter 1

food chain

a relationship of living things as food sources for other living things (**food chains**)

sapling

a young tree (**saplings**)

mighty

large in size

wander

to move around without a particular
direction or purpose

nutrient

vitamins and minerals that help living things stay healthy (**nutrients**)

protect

to keep safe from harm

predator

an animal that lives by hunting other animals (**predators**)

defense

a way to protect against harm (**defenses**)

prey

animals that are hunted by other
animals for food

microscopic

so small that it can only be seen with a
microscope

apex

the top point

Unit 11: Chapter 2

producer

a living thing that makes its own food
(**producers**)

consumer

a living thing that eats other living things (**consumers**)

decomposer

a living thing that eats dead plant and animal matter (**decomposers**)

soil

dirt

Unit 11: Chapter 3

photosynthesis

the process by which plants make their own food using sunlight

safety

the state of being free from harm

organic

from or made by living things

bacteria

microscopic living things that exist everywhere; Some can be helpful and some can be hurtful.

fungus

a plant-like organism that lives on dead
or decaying things (**fungi**)

abundant

plentiful

Unit 11: Chapter 3

decompose

to rot, decay, or be slowly destroyed
and broken down by natural processes
(**decomposes, decomposed**)

vitamin

a substance found in food that is
necessary for good health (**vitamins**)

mineral

a substance that occurs naturally in
some food and contributes to good
health (**minerals**)

balance

in nature, the maintenance of
populations in the proper amounts and
conditions

wildlife

animals living in nature

Unit 11: Chapter 4

safari

a trip taken to see or hunt wild animals

reserve

an area of land where plants and animals are given special protection

herd

a large group of animals (**herds**)

wildebeest

a large, African antelope, or deer-like creature, with long, curving horns
(**wildebeests**)

acacia

a small tree that has yellow or white
flowers (**acacias**)

rely on

depend on or need

upset

to interfere with

gazelle

an antelope, or deer-like creature, that
runs very fast (**gazelles**)

extinction

a condition in which a kind of plant or animal dies out completely

fragile

weak, easily harmed

erode

to wear away over time due to wind or
water (**erosion, eroded**)

common

occurring often

force

something powerful, especially in nature
(**forces**)

flood

a condition in which a body of water rises and overflows beyond its usual limits (**floods**)

landscape

an area of land that can be seen in one
look

topsoil

the top layer of soil that includes
nutrients plants need

decay

to rot (**decaying**)

petrified

slowly changed into stone over time

prehistoric

a time before history was written down

countless

too many to count

species

a group into which animals or plants are
divided by scientists

jackrabbit

an animal that looks like a large rabbit
with long ears and long hind legs
(jackrabbits)

technology

the invention of useful things or solving
problems using science and engineering

resource

something that is useful or valuable

primarily

mainly

Unit 11: Chapter 6

generate

to make (**generates**)

hydroelectric

using the power of water to make
electricity

reservoir

a lake in which water is stored for use

endangered

in danger of dying out completely

pasture

a field in which animals eat grass
(**pastures**)

pump

to move liquid using a special machine

oil rig

a platform built above the ocean to
support drilling for oil underwater

anchored

held firmly in place

disaster

a sudden event that causes much
damage or loss

oil spill

an event during which oil is released
into nature, usually into water, causing
pollution

polluted

dirty and unsafe

Unit 11: Chapter 7

variety

a collection of different types

effect

a change resulting from influence or
power (**effects**)

source

where something comes from

coastline

the place where the land and the ocean
meet

seal

to close up (**sealed**)

oil boom

a floating barrier put in water to keep
oil from spreading (**oil booms**)

recover

to improve after an accident or difficult
time

natural resource

a useful or valuable thing found in
nature (**natural resources**)

recycle

to process old things so they can be used again to make new things (**recycled, recycling**)

alternative

another choice (**alternatives**)

unnecessary

not needed

treasure

a valuable, important, or special thing
(**treasures**)

naturalist

a person who studies living things in nature (**naturalists**)

conservationist

a person who works to protect animals,
plants, and other natural resources
(**conservationists**)

wilderness

a wild and natural area where no people
live