

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY PROGRAM

FIFTH GRADE VOCABULARY LIST

1. **Tree Rings** (also known as annual or growth rings) – The layer of wood produced by the growth in a single year. Wet weather produces larger rings while drought conditions produce smaller rings.
2. **Water Cycle** – The process of the Earth's water moving through phases of evaporation, condensation, precipitation, accumulation, and percolation.
3. **Precipitation** – Moisture that falls from the sky as rain, snow, hail, etc.
4. **Accumulation** – Gathering area of water including rivers, streams, oceans, aquifers, etc.
5. **Percolation** – Water being absorbed through the many layers of soil, contributing to the water table.
6. **Evaporation** – Water formed into vapor and rising upward, this includes transpiration.
7. **Condensation** – Water vapor forming into cloud structures.
8. **Transpiration** – The direct transfer of water as a gas from plant leaves to the atmosphere.
9. **Dichotomous Key** – Is a scientific tool to identify species. It is designed to generate and answer of yes (move to next question) or no (does not and will not apply). Through a process of elimination, the most appropriate answer will present itself.
10. **Snags** – Trees that are dead, but still standing. These are important to our environment for many reasons. They allow raptors (birds of prey) to perch and be on the lookout for food, and they take up ground space to allow other trees to grow.
11. **Roots** – Pulls water and nutrients out of the ground to the xylem.
12. **Heartwood** – The older, non-living tissue of a tree trunk, which forms the skeletal support of a tree.
13. **Xylem** – The tissue of a tree/plant which conducts water and nutrients upward from the roots.
14. **Cambium** – The only living tissue in the tree, and it is one cell thick. This will divide to produce the sap and the bark.

15. **Phloem** – The vessels that conduct food down a plant from leaves where photosynthesis takes place. During winter months food is stored in the root systems.
16. **Bark** – The protective outer layer of the plant (similar to our skin). Insulates from heat, cold, insects, and other animals.
17. **Seeds** – The part of a plant that contains the embryo of a new generation. Their numbers, forms, and structures have a bearing on their main purpose, which is to insure continued survival. Seeds are future plants.
18. **Photosynthesis** – The process of all green plants converting sunlight energy into food energy.
19. **Disperse** – Travel to a new location.
20. **Turbidity** – The depth clarity (how far you can see down) of a body of water.
21. **Ph** (“potential hydrogen”) Test – measures the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution (acid or base).
22. **Aquifer** – Underground body of water (usually underground rivers or lakes).
23. **Liquid** – One of three properties or forms of water.
24. **Gas** – One of three properties or forms of water.
25. **Solid** – One of three properties or forms of water.
26. **Watershed** – A region or area drained by a stream or river system.