

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY PROGRAM SIXTH GRADE VOCABULARY LIST

1. **Folding** – Earth movements pushing the edges of the crust into a smaller area. The pressure causes buckling and wrinkling resulting in parallel ridges.
2. **Faulting** – Caused by a fracture in the earth with pressure on one or both sides. The side with the heavier push usually goes downward and gets “melted” as magma. The lighter to no-push pressure usually gets lifted or actually torn out of the ground.
3. **Volcanism** – Fractures beneath the crust extending into the mantle may cause magma (molten rock) to exude as “lava.” A cross section of a volcano will look like an onion with many layers. In the case of Mt. St. Helens, the 1980 eruption caused the mountain to explode, and its height has decreased substantially.
4. **Pangea Theory** – The crust of the earth is separated into seven major plates and several smaller ones. Years ago these were all connected into one super continent (Pangea). These plates started to drift apart and are still moving at a rate of 1 to 16 cm per year.
5. **Soil Cycle**– A seed germinates, emerges as a seedling, grows to a sapling, then to a tree. Throughout its life it drops leaves to help fertilize the area, and at its death it will decompose placing nutrients back into the soil for life to renew.
6. **Soil Horizon** – Are the identified layers of the soils: litter, duff, humus, topsoil, subsoil, bedrock, or remember the acronym, “**L**ittle **D**anny **H**as **T**wo **S**urf **B**oards.”
7. **Litter**– Freshly fallen debris from trees, shrubs, and other plants, which have not been broken down.
8. **Duff** – Broken and clumped leaves, twigs, etc. It is here that bonding starts to take place. Insects are still for the most part, absent from this layer.
9. **Humus** – The F.B. I. at work (Fungus, Bacteria, and Invertebrates). This layer has the aroma of soil because of decomposition.
10. **Topsoil** – The rich organic blend from above with minerals, nutrients, weight, and bulk from the lower layers.
11. **Subsoil** – Broken rock, grit, and sand that seems to float to the surface blending with humus to create topsoil.
12. **Bedrock** – The solid rock surface or boulder formation that lay below the surface of all layers.

13. **Erosion** – The constant changes on the surface of earth by environmental factors.
14. **Water Erosion**– The transportation of the earth's placed material through water (especially after storms). It will also loosen and carry debris caused by weathering. This process does involve gravity since debris works its way down.
15. **Weathering** – The process of breaking down rock by such forces as water, ice, chemicals, growing plants, and changing temperatures.
16. **Water Intrusion**– Water freezes in cracks of rocks causing expansion. Splitting or crumbling is the most common result of this process.
17. **Plant Intrusion** – Plants' roots will expand in the fractures in rocks causing them to split or crumble. Lichens growing on rocks produce a mild acid. The plant slowly deteriorates the rock by the consumption of minerals.
18. **Wind Erosion** – Wind will change the landscape by physically moving material and depositing it elsewhere, and by sculpting. This process involves “sandblasting” by the force of nature.
19. **Compaction** (human impact) – Soil being compressed enough to squeeze out all traces of oxygen. This result often leads to water erosion. (Some of the old wagon roads of years past are still void of plants.)
20. **Glaciers** – Thought to be snowflakes that have lost the characteristics and compressed by its own massive weight to produce ice. Under its own weight, the ice behaves more fluid than solid. The moving ice acts as a plow even removing big boulders like sandpaper scraping wood.
21. **MOHS Scale** – Introduced and named for German mineralogist Friedrich Mohs in 1812. Used to determine the apparent hardness of rocks and minerals. The scale rates from 1, being the softest mineral, to 10, being the hardest.
22. **Lichens** – Are small plant-like organisms, which grow where nothing else will. They are particularly interesting because they are made up of two organisms, a fungi and an alga. The fungus of the lichen holds the plant and protects the alga from the cold, while the alga produces the food. They can be found almost anywhere; some grow on tree bark, some grow on the ground, but mostly they are found on rocks.
23. **Crust** – The outermost solid layer of the earth mostly consisting of crystalline rock and only a few miles deep.
24. **Mantle** – Layer of the earth below the crust and above the core made of solid and molten rock.
25. **Core** – Center of the earth believed to consist of compressed nickel and iron.