

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY PROGRAM FOURTH GRADE VOCABULARY LIST

1. **L.A.W.S. of Nature** – The four non-living/abiotic factors required for all life on Earth (sunLight, **Air**, **Water**), and (minerals in the) **Soil**.
2. **Biotic or Living** – A being that breathes and eats (not consume).
3. **Abiotic or Non-living** – An object that cannot, has not, and will not breathe or eat.
4. **Food Chain** –The feeding relationship between species within an ecosystem. The energy flow from one type of life to another through consumption.
5. **Energy Pyramid** –Food energy being passed upward through a pyramid shape, nonlinear connection (small change at one level can produce a large change on another.)
6. **Producer** – Is any plant that can change energy from sunlight and nutrients in the soil into food.
7. **Consumer** – Eats plants and/or animals.
8. **Scavenger** – Eats carrion which are animals already dead from something else.
9. **Decomposers** – Get their nourishment from dead and decaying beings. Bacteria, millipedes, earthworms, and fungi are decomposers. They take the dead material of the earth and change it into food for plants.
10. **Fungi** (mushrooms) – A fungus is not a true plant because it does not have stems, leaves, or chlorophyll. Fungi cannot not make their own food like green plants. Instead, they get their energy by absorbing food from dead or living matter.
11. **Rock Cycle** – The process in which an existing rock may change through melting, heat, pressure, chemical (oxidation), or sedimentation to become another form or even back to itself under proper conditions.
12. **Igneous** – Formed by magma cooling either above or below the ground. Granite is an example of our most common igneous rock.
13. **Metamorphic**– Changed through heat and pressure below the ground. An example is marble, which used to be limestone. Gneiss is another example, which changed from granite.

14. **Sedimentary** – Small solid fragments of material transported by water and cemented into rock. Limestone is an example. Skeletal remains of ancient sea creatures deposit and cement into limestone.
15. **Mineral** – The basic component or ingredient of rocks. Rocks can be thought of as baking a cookie. You need your ingredients, but instead of flour, sugar, shortening, and chocolate; there will be quartz, mica, feldspar, epidote, etc.
16. **Man's Impact** – The influence of humans altering the natural environment and physical landscape, usually disregarding the rules of nature.
17. **Ecosystem** – An area or environment of any size where living and non-living things interact.
18. **Habitat** – The area of food, water, shelter, and space required by animals.
19. **Preservation** – Designing areas with little human influence. A defined area where the natural features (mountains, lakes, streams, etc.), plants, and animals are set aside for protection and the enjoyment of all.
20. **Encroachment** – Communities pushing their boundaries closer and closer to wild areas (mountain, deserts, etc.). This results with animals traveling within their natural range, which now intersects with human neighborhoods.