Vocabulary/Ch. 1

Friedland

**environment**: The sum of all the conditions surrounding us that influence life

**environmental science**: The field of study that looks at interactions among human systems and those found in nature

**system**: Any set of interacting components that influence one another by exchanging energy or materials

**ecosystem**: A particular location on Earth distinguished by its mix of interacting biotic and abiotic components

**biotic**: Living

**abiotic**: Nonliving

**environmentalist**: A person who participates in environmentalism, a social movement that seeks to protect the environment through lobbying, activism, and education

**environmental studies**: The field of study that includes subjects such as environmental policy, economics, literature, and ethics

**ecosystem services**: The processes by which natural environments provide life-supporting resources

**environmental indicators**: Describe the current state of the environmental system

**sustainability**: Living on Earth in a way that allows humans to use its resources without depriving future generations of those resources

**biodiversity**: The diversity of life forms in an environment. There are three forms: genetic, species, and ecosystem.

**species**: A group of organisms that is distance from other groups in its morphology (body form and structure), behavior, or biochemical properties.

**speciation**: The evolution of new species

**background extinction rate**: The average rate at which species go extinct over the long term

**greenhouse gases**: Gases in the Earth’s atmosphere that trap heat near the surface

**anthropogenic**: Derived from human activities

**development**: Improvement in human well-being through economic advancement

**sustainable development**: development that balances current human well-being and economic advancement with resource management for the benefit of future generations

**biophilia**: An appreciation for life

**ecological footprint**: A measure of how much that person consumes, expressed in area of land

**scientific method**: An objective method to explore the natural world, draw inferences from it and, and predict the outcome of certain events, processes, or changes.

**hypothesis**: A testable conjecture about how something works

**null hypotheses**: A statement or idea that can be falsified or proved wrong

**replication**: The data collection procedure of taking repeated measurements

**sample size (n)**: The number of times a measurement is replicated in the data collection process

**accuracy**: How close a measured value is to the actual or true value

**precision**: How close to one another the repeated measurements of the same sample are

**uncertainty**: An estimate of how much a measured or calculated value differs from a true value

**inductive reasoning**: The process of making general statements from specific facts or examples

**deductive reasoning**: The process of applying a general statement to a specific facts or situations

**critical thinking**: The process of questioning the source of information, considering the methods used to obtain the information, and drawing conclusions; essential to all scientific endeavor

**theory**: A hypotheses that has been repeated tested and confirmed by multiple groups of researches and has reached wide acceptance.

**natural law**: A theory to which there are no known exceptions and which has withstood rigorous testing

**control group**: A group that experiences exactly the same conditions as the experimental group, except for the single variable under study.

**natural experiment**: A natural event that acts as an experimental treatment in an ecosystem.

**environmental justice**: A social movement and field of study that words toward equal enforcement of environmental laws and the elimination of disparities, whether intended of unintended in how pollutants and other environmental harms are distributed among the various ethnic and socioeconomic groups within a society.