Vocabulary/Ch. 14

Friedland

**water pollution**: The contamination of streams, rivers, lakes, oceans, or groundwater with substances produced through human activities

**point source**: A distinct location from which pollution is directly produced

**nonpoint sources**: A diffuse area that produces pollution

**wastewater**: Water produced by human activities including human sewage from toilets and gray water from bathing and washing of clothes and dishes

**oxygen-demanding waste**: Organic matter that enters a body of water and feeds microbes that are decomposers

**biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)**: The amount of oxygen a quantity of water uses over a period of time at specific temperatures

**dead zones**: In a body of water, an area with extremely low oxygen concentration and very little life

**eutrophication**: A phenomenon in which a body of water becomes rich in nutrients

**cultural eutrophication**: An increase in fertility in a body of water, the result of anthropogenic inputs of nutrients

**algal bloom**: A rapid increase or accumulation in the algal population of a waterway

**pathogens**: An illness-causing bacterium, virus, or parasite

**indicator species**: A species that indicates whether or not disease-causing pathogens are likely to be present

**fecal coliform bacteria**: A group of microorganisms in the human intestines that can serve as an indicator species for potentially harmful microorganisms associated with contamination by sewage

**septic system**: A relatively small and simple sewage treatment system, made up of a septic tank and a leach field, often used for homes in rural areas

**septic tank**: A large container that receives wastewater from a house as part of a septic system

**septage**: A layer of fairly clear water found in the middle of a septic tank

**leach field**: A component of a septic system, made up of underground pipes laid out below the surface of the ground

**sludge**: Solid waste material from wastewater

**manure lagoons**: Human-made ponds lined with rubber built to handle large quantities of manure produced by livestock

**acid deposition**: Acids deposited on Earth as rain and snow or as gases and particles that attach to the surfaces of plants, soil, and water

**PCBs(polychlorinated biphenyls)**: A group of industrial compounds formerly used to manufacture plastics and insulate electrical transformers, and responsible for many environmental problems

**PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ether)**: An environmentally harmful compound commonly found in flame retardants and other materials

**thermal pollution**: Nonchemical water pollution that occurs when human activities cause a substantial change in the temperature of water

**thermal shock**: A dramatic change in water temperature that can kill organisms

**maximum contaminant levels (MCL)**: The standard for safe drinking water established by the EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act