

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Vocabulary

Abiotic - An environmental factor not associated with the activities of living organisms.

Adaptation - Any variation that makes an organism better suited to its environment.

Allele - An alternate form that a gene may have for a single trait; can be dominant or recessive.

Asexual reproduction - A type of reproduction including fission, budding, and regeneration in which a new organism is produced from one organism and has DNA identical to the parent organism.

Biotic - Factors in an environment relating to, caused by, or produced by living organisms.

Consumer - Organism that cannot create energy-rich molecules but obtains its food by eating other organisms.

Decomposer - Organism, such as fungi or bacteria, that consume wastes and dead organisms; organisms that help recycle once-living matter by breaking it down into simple, energy-rich substances.

Dependent variable - The factor being measured or observed in an experiment.

Dominant - Describes a trait that covers over, or dominates, another form of that trait.

Ecosystem - An ecological community, together with its environment, functioning as a unit.

Fossil - A whole or part of a plant or animal that has been preserved in sedimentary rock.

Gene - A specific part of a chromosome or a sequence of DNA that determines a particular feature or characteristic in an organism.

Genotype - The sum total of the genetic information contained in an organism.

Heterozygous - Describes an organism with two different alleles for a trait.

Homozygous - Describes an organism with two alleles that are the same for a trait.

Independent variable - The factor that is changed in an experiment in order to study changes in the dependent variable

Mitosis - Cell process in which the nucleus divides to form two nuclei identical to each other, and identical to the original nucleus, in a series of steps (prophase, metaphase, anaphase, and telophase).

Niche - In an ecosystem, refers to the unique ways an organism survives, obtains food and shelter, and avoids danger.

Organism - A complete living thing made up of parts that work together to carry out the processes of life. Some organisms are small and consist of only one cell. Others consist of many cells, tissues, organs and systems.

Phenotype - The appearance or other observable characteristic of an organism resulting from the interaction of its genetic makeup and its environment.

Photosynthesis - The process by which plants and many other producers use light energy to produce a simple sugar from carbon dioxide and water and give off oxygen.

Predator - An organism that preys on and consumes animals. Predators are usually animals.

Prey - An organism caught or hunted for food by another organism.

Producer - An organism, such as a green plant or alga, that uses an outside source of energy like the Sun to create energy-rich food molecules.

Recessive - Describes a trait that is covered over, or dominated, by another form of that trait and seems to disappear.

Scientific method - A plan of inquiry that uses science process skills as tools to gather, organize, analyze and communicate information

Tissue - group of similar cells that work together to do one job.