

Great Bay Discovery Center Spring Program Vocabulary Key

Eelgrass (eel-grass): A type of aquatic seagrass found in Great Bay that provides food and protection for many animals.

Estuary (es-tu-ar-y): A body of water where fresh water from the rivers and salt water from the ocean meet and mix.

Salt marsh (salt-mar-SH): An area of coastal grassland on a tidal marsh.

Tidal (tid-al): When a body of water like the Great Bay is impacted rising and falling tides.

Nursery (nurs-er-y): An area in a habitat where young animal species live and grow up.

Habitat (hab-i-tat): The natural home or environment of a plant or animal.

Erosion (e-ro-sion): The removal of soil or rock by wind, water or storms.

Amphipod (am-phi-pod): A small crustacean that look shrimp-like in form.

Juvenile (ju-ve-nile): A young animal not fully matured yet.

Mummichog (mum-mi-chog): A small fish that lives along the shores of estuaries.

Phytoplankton (phy-to-plank-ton): Plankton made up of tiny microscopic plants.

Zooplankton (zo-o-plank-ton): Plankton made up of tiny microscopic animals.

Carrageenan (car-ra-gee-nan): A substance taken from red seaweed that is used as a thickening property in food and beauty products.

Microscopic (mi-cro-scop-ic): Something so small it can only be seen through a microscope.

Detritus (de-tri-tus): Organic material from decomposing plants and animals.

Bacteria (bac-te-ri-a): Tiny microscopic organisms or “germs” that can survive in harsh conditions and make you sick.

Fungi (fun-gi): A small pore producing organism like mushrooms, mold or yeast.

Food pyramid (food pyr-a-mid): A diagram shaped like a pyramid that shows a basic food system and how energy is moved from animal to animal starting with plants and ending with the largest predator in an environment.

Oyster (oys-ter): A marine organism that is a filter feeder and has two shells hinged together.

Bivalve (bi-valve): An aquatic mollusk with a compressed body and two shells hinged together.

Gills (gill): The respiratory organ for aquatic species that extracts oxygen from the water to breathe.

Climate (cli-mate): Long-term weather conditions that scientists use to study and analyze climate current data.

Weather (weath-er): Current atmospheric conditions like temperature, rain, sunshine, snow.

Adaptation (ad-ap-ta-tion): The process where plants and animals change physically to fit in and survive within their environment.

Herbivore (her-biv-ore): An animal that feeds on plants.

Omnivore (om-ni-vore): An animal that eats both plants and animals.

Carnivore (car-ni-vore): An animal that feed on other animals.

Predator (pred-a-tor): An animal that preys on others.

Prey (prey): An animal that is hunted and killed by other animals.

Raptor (rap-tor): A bird of prey like an eagle or osprey.

Camouflage (cam-ou-flage): Special physical adaptations animals have that help them blend in to their surroundings and hide from predators.